

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Oberland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On March 31st, at Amoy, the wife of LANCELOT GILFS, of H.M. Consular Service, of a daughter.

On April 6th, at Shanghai, the wife of A. W. BAHE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On April 1st, at Shanghai, HENRY JOSEPH BASSETT of H. I. C. M. Navy to BERTHA ELIZA CARTER.

On April 5th, at Shanghai, CECIL ROBERT SLOWE, to LINDA CALDER.

On April 5th, at Shanghai, HERBERT PINCKNEY WINSLOW, to SARAH LIND BRADSHAW JOHNSON of Sydney.

DEATH.

On April 7th, 1907, at his residence, No. 21, Old Bailey, Hongkong, JOAO MARIA ANTONIO DA SILVA, late of the Hongkong Civil Service.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 12th ultimo arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Bittel Friedrich*, on Tuesday, the 9th instant; and the French Mail of the 5th ultimo arrived, per the s.s. *Salotis*, to-day, the 15th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The King's exequatur empowering Mr. B. Szentirmay von Darvas to be I. and R. Consul for Austria-Hungary at Hongkong has received His Majesty's signature.

Regulations governing prospecting and mining in the Colony of Hongkong and its dependencies other than the New Territories, appear in the current *Gazette*.

The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., has secured the contract for the repair of the steamer *Netherton*. The amount of the tender has not been announced.

The charter for an electric light company with Tls 200,000 capital in Kirin has been obtained by a German merchant, who is nominally represented by a Chinese.

Early on April 10th a lukong on duty in Des Vœux Road was surprised to find a trunk lying near the roadside. Thinking that some burglar had left it there, the lukong took it to No. 7 Police station where a European officer opened it. They found that it contained the body of a little boy who had died from smallpox.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Horticultural Society in April 3rd showed that its financial position was entirely satisfactory. They begin the present year with the balance of nearly \$880. The two shows together cost a little over a thousand dollars, or about \$200 more than the receipts at the door. The quality and quantity of exhibits was improving.

Imperial decrees dated Peking, April 3rd, are thus translated:—(1) By extra grace of her Imperial Majesty the Empress Dowager, Prince Ching is from henceforth excused from the duty of introducing persons into the Imperial presence, in deference to his age and as a relief from a fatiguing duty. (2) Keh Pin is appointed Superintendent of Imperial silk looms at Hongchow.

Five French missionaries from Yunnan, who were on the way to Chamtang in Tibet, have been detained in Taohienlu in Szechuan. The Chinese Amban of Lhasa, having been informed that the missionaries intended to settle in Tibet, lodged a protest with the Peking Government declaring that the settlement of missionaries in Tibet is inconsistent with the treaties; further, more such a settlement would probably create hostilities amongst the Buddhists and the Missionaries in Tibet.

At the office of the Public Works Department on April 8th the letting was offered by public auction sale of Inland Lot No. 1,771, which is on the south side of the new road from Queen's Gardens to Magazine Gap Road. The letting is for a term of 75 years, the area of the lot about 20,800 square feet; and the annual Crown rental \$144. The lot was sold to Mr. L. Gibbs, of Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs, for \$4,180, being \$20 above the upset price. The purchase was effected on behalf of a client.

It is stated from reliable sources in Peking that their Imperial Highnesses Princes Chun (the Emperor's younger brother) and Ching (His Majesty's uncle) recently strongly recommended His Excellency Tang Shao-yi to the Throne for the post of President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications in succession to the late Chang Po-hai. This, the *N. C. Daily News* bears, is being opposed by the reactionaries led by Tieh Liang of the Ministry of War, who is extremely jealous of H. R. Tang Shao-yi, because the latter is a protégé of the Great Viceroy of Chihli.

The new "Velodrome International" in Route Veyron, Shanghai, will be formally opened on May 5. The track, which is built of hard wood, is one third of a mile in circumference and cost the promoters Tls. 10,000. Ample accommodation for dressing rooms has been prepared and a grand stand has been erected for the benefit of spectators. The track is now open for training for 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, and many leading local cyclists are in training for the opening events. Several handsome cups will be presented, to amateurs only, for the cycling and motor cycling events.

In the presence of H. E. the Governor and the largest crowd that has been seen at the Valley this year, the Hongkong Football Club and the Royal Garrison Artillery took the field in the final for the Challenge Shield. Both teams were in good condition, consequently one of the fastest games of the season was witnessed. The Club played well in the first half, netting two goals to their opponents' nil, but the endurance of the soldiers outlasted that of the civilians and in the end they conquered, scoring three goals before the whistle sounded. As was to be expected in the final, the game was somewhat rough, and the referee had to stop play on several occasions on account of a player being injured.

The Colony has again been deprived of one of its oldest, if not the oldest, resident by the demise of Mr. João M. A. da Silva which took place early on the 7th April at his residence in Old Bailey Street, at the age of 70 years. The deceased gentleman joined the Hongkong Civil Service in 1858, and retired on pension twelve years ago. While in active service he was the Inspector of the Government Telegraph. He was the first to experiment with the telephone in this Colony and gave an exhibition at his residence with successful results. For about eight years he has been gradually failing in health, and two years ago he lost his sight. Death was due to heart failure. Deceased was much respected among the Portuguese and foreign community, and his loss is greatly felt. The flag at the Club Lu itano was at half mast yesterday and remains so to-day as a token of respect to the deceased, who was one of the prominent members of that institution. His funeral takes place this afternoon at 4.30 p.m.

What might have proved a disastrous fire was discovered in the New Travellers' Hotel, Des Vœux Road, on April 10th, but the prompt attendance of the Fire Brigade under Captain Lyons prevented it from spreading. It is thought that an oil lamp which stood on a table in the passage and which was the only light in the place was the cause of the conflagration. Be that as it may Mrs. Oliver was awakened between three and four o'clock in the morning owing to the heat and the smoke, and looking up saw the flames bursting into her apartment. Quickly the alarm was raised and in very short time the Brigade, fortunately able to get plenty of water, was playing on the conflagration. In half an hour they had succeeded in extinguishing the flames. By that time however practically the whole of the staircase was destroyed and part of the roof immediately above had collapsed. A good deal of the furniture was damaged by smoke and water and the total loss is \$2,000. The premises are insured for \$5,000.

REPORTING PROGRESS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 5th April.)

When Dr. MORRISON, lately returned to Peking after a visit to this end of the Chinese Empire, gets his copy of the *Times* dated March 8th, we fear he will experience something like a shock. When he arrived at Hanoi after his interesting overland journey, he sent an expensive telegram for which any other correspondent of any other paper would doubtless have received a "wiggling." Professionally analysed, it was a sort of make-weight message, not worth the expense. To the ordinary reader it is certainly an interesting sketch of an unusual trip, and every paragraph of it forms part of a faithful, if somewhat colourless, picture of the situation existing in the area traversed. Not having to pay the telegraphic charges for it, we have no fault to find with it whatever. With the editorial supposed to be based upon it, however, and the reckless conclusions therein drawn, we cannot express equal satisfaction, and Dr. MORRISON in the seclusion of his Peking library may not improbably give vent to comments more vigorous than we need or care to make. It would be no business of ours at all, were it not for the fact that so many people at Home trust the "Thunderer," especially those who know how reliable a narrator its Peking correspondent is. Many of these will fail to notice that the *Times* has said things not warranted by Dr. MORRISON's less gushing comments, and things more optimistic than we have thought it just to write for the consumption of our European readers. Thus we feel justified in drawing attention, in the interests of accuracy, to the discrepancy between the correspondent's facts and the leader-writer's embroideries. Dr. MORRISON said his journey was a very pleasant one, the officials and people friendly, and that he met not the smallest disagreeable incident. Upon this the *Times* assures its readers that any stranger, if he knows local manners and character as Dr. MORRISON does (in which case he would hardly be a "stranger") may pass through Hunan and Kwangsi "in perfect comfort" and safety. The safety may be temporarily granted, but the other phrase conveys a quite misleading idea of present day travel in inland China. Its conditions are very slowly improving, but they are still far from the perfection stated. That is a minor point, however. Our illustrious contemporary goes on to explain that because Dr. MORRISON was not molested, a "change in the whole mental attitude of the Chinese" is indicated. This is exaggeration unworthy of such a journal's pre-Book-Club reputation. It admits that "shrewd and experienced observers" have thought they discerned in "the reform movement" a "strong and dangerous anti-foreign bias", but Dr. MORRISON's evidence (that he was not molested) "tends to throw doubt upon this view." Perhaps the pessimists have been sending exaggerated stories home, for this leader-writer evidently held the impression that the usual incidents of a journey across China were stones and staves or worse. Undoubtedly many Chinese now believe that "foreign influence and foreign learning must play a great part in the regeneration of their country," but there are as many who desire to dispense with the foreigner as soon as they have learned what they want to know. As it is, Dr. MORRISON's message made it clear that most of the thirst for foreign knowledge that he noted was being taken to Chinese and Japanese teachers for assuagement. Though he used the phrase "spread of Western education," the traveller noted

that it was "defective compared with our standard," and he said nothing of the motives with which it is being sought. "Everywhere was noticeable the desire to learn English," but that is not necessarily what the *Times* calls "the zeal for European methods." The young man in Hongkong who learns Cantonese does not do so because he is a convert to native methods, but because he thinks it will facilitate business with the people who speak it. This desire to learn English has been noticeable for a long time before Dr. MORRISON made his last trip, and has been held to account largely for the apparent successes which have raised the hopes of missionaries. A writer some years ago remarked that it was unnecessary for Englishmen to learn European languages. He said the Englishman had only to travel round holding up a sovereign, and the various peoples would make it their business to learn English in order to ask him for it. The little parable is not inapplicable to the Chinese appetite for foreign "education," by which they chiefly mean the language or languages. It is true they are now studying other things, foreign history, and politics, and science. Dr. MORRISON mentioned that also, but he never said, and would not dream of saying, such things as this extract contains:

"Hitherto education has been education in the Chinese classics. Even the most accomplished of the native scholars have had no more conception of the rudiments of scientific astronomy and geography or of the conformation and functions of the organs of the human body than have the most primitive of the islanders in the Pacific or of the negroes in Central Africa. The Renaissance and the Reformation together can have brought no such shock to the received ideas of medieval Europe as instruction in modern science is bringing to the Chinese. Both of these great movements were gradual and at first affected a limited class, from which they filtered down to the people. But in China the light has been flashed upon comparatively large masses of the nation together. It will be of deep interest to see the effect of so sudden and so fierce an illumination on the habits and character of a people whose whole civilization and ethics have hitherto depended in an exceptional degree upon habit."

The Chinese have had their astronomical instruments, rather better than rudimentary, and their maps, and physiological charts of a sort; and we are surprised to find the *Times* venturing to compare them with "the most primitive of the islanders in the Pacific." There is a good deal more in the article, but we will not go further with it. The point to note is that it is too soon to talk of this mental revolution of the Chinese, if it ever will be time. Here and there, and in constantly increasing numbers, we admit, our neighbours are revising by means of foreign text books their notions of physiology, &c., but whether the British Board School boy who believes the seat of the emotions is in the skull has any political advantage over the Chinese who thinks they originate in the belly, is to us a matter of doubt. Chinese politics and Chinese relations with the outside world concern us most at present, and it is a mistake to encourage home-dwellers to think that there has been any material change. They are already too apt, when a competent observer like Dr. MORRISON remarks that the new Chinese soldiers are a great improvement on the old "Braves," to run away with the idea that he means the Army of Asia is organized, efficient, and mobilized.

In a libel action brought by the Jesuit Fathers against Messrs. W. and J. Cowan, of "The China Times" judgment was given on April 5th for the plaintiffs, who were awarded \$500 and costs.

PARLIAMENTARY INEXACTITUDES.

(Daily Press, April 6th.)

Is honesty possible in politics and statecraft? In some countries this question would be taken to refer to financial honesty, to the corruptibility of statesmen, to bribery and other forms of "graft." It is put now in another connection, and refers to verbal honesty. Is truthfulness possible in British politics and statecraft? The party system does not seem to encourage sincerity. The latest mail papers and telegrams present some examples more striking than usual of political humbug. The last general elections elicited plainer phraseology; we heard of a "campaign of lies," and very often plain language like that seems called for. Out here, not being drawn into the whirlpool of party feeling, it is easier for us to take a detached view of both sides, and as we look at them, the thought that both sides have much to be ashamed of irresistibly occurs. Not that there ever are any traces of the self-knowledge that induces shame. Both parties appear to be living in a political Eden, nakedly mendacious and not ashamed. REUTER gives a striking example, when reporting that Sir JAMES ALEXANDER SWETENHAM is officially declared to have resigned the governorship of Jamaica "on account of age." It was really unnecessary for Sir FRANK to deny that; it was one of those statements, like the assertions of extreme cordiality between Far Eastern meteorological observatories, that nobody believes. It is interesting to speculate how many people are really imposed on by the claptrap that is talked in Parliament. We know that the allegations that Chinese coolies in South Africa were treated like slaves were followed by a majority of votes for a certain political party; but it is doubtful if all who voted that way really believed all that they were told. It is possible that caprice figures as largely in the political game as party sequacity. Given that the public is disgusted with each party in turn, as seems not unlikely from the regularity with which they rise to "turn the rascals out," it may be that the public is not such a credulous mass as politicians seem to think it. Perhaps the mariner who jams his helm hard over to get away from Scylla is not really so desperately enamoured of Charybdis, as electoral statisticians make out. There was a discussion in Parliament one night last month, on the new Navy proposals, which to us sufficiently illustrated the humbug permeating that House. At the annual dinner of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, Lord TWEEDMOUTH uttered the familiar and pleasing disingenuity that the King's Navy was above party and beyond party. The men of commerce cheered it, but the Commons immediately showed what nonsense it was. Mr. ARTHUR LEES opened an attack on the Government's proposals. "Do the Government really believe that there is any reasonable possibility of our naval rivals being attracted by the bait which the Government hold out to them?" he asked, referring to the reduction of armaments nonsense. The PREMIER talked about the "Two Power standard," and let it be seen that he did not mean the orthodox principle of Britain's navy being equal to those of the two strongest Powers. He was satisfied with being equal to the strongest of those with whom we had no alliance. "I believe Germany to be a friend of peace," he said, "and it is neither good tactics nor good taste for us to assume on the part of a Great Power that it has any

other object than peace, which it thinks to bring about by strengthening its power. There is a great movement of feeling among thinking people in all the nations of Europe in favour of arbitration and the peaceful settlement of disputes and of escape from the enormous expenditure involved by the present system. There is no sinister purpose in this country, or any desire to place ourselves in the front rank of those who consider that the warlike attitude of the Powers as displayed by the excessive growth of armaments is a curse to Europe." Then the Leader of the opposition, Mr. BALFOUR, leaped to the fray. "We all desire disarmament," he said, meaning really that we all hate to pay for armament, "but the Government's methods are likely to inspire the foreign Powers with distrust and suspicion of our desires. You claim to the British people that while you are reducing expenditure you are increasing the strength of your Navy and your Army, and you are going to The Hague Conference to ask the foreign nations to decrease, not their expenditure, but their forces. Your atmosphere of benevolent platitudes will have no effect on foreign diplomatists." Clearly to tell the Hague Conference that Britain was reducing her navy, while telling the British that the reductions meant greater efficiency, involves a falsehood somewhere; but in politics a spade is rarely a spade. Then Mr. BALFOUR became virtuously indignant. He was saying that when the Prime Minister came to tell the Hague Conference of his peace-loving intentions, they would turn to him—and here Sir HENRY CAMPBELL BANNERMAN interjected: "At your suggestion." It was quite fair; it had been done by the other side during the Boer War; but we read that a great volume of cheering went up when Mr. BALFOUR indignantly retorted "that is an unworthy interruption." He had the PREMIER in a tight corner as it was; this protest was anti-climax, and spoiled the effect. So also did his remark that the PREMIER could not ride two horses at once. Few men can, but Mr. BALFOUR on the Tariff policy is supposed to have been diligently attempting the circus trick. Then the fate of a motion by Mr. CARLTON BELLAIRS showed how far the King's Navy is above and beyond party. Mr. BELLAIRS is regarded as a naval expert by his party, and he moved an amendment giving the accepted definition (and Mr. BALFOUR's) of the Two Power Standard. The PREMIER begged him to withdraw it, to "expedite business," and he did so. Obviously the King's navy is not above and beyond party. We doubt if anything is above party, and, we might add, there seems nothing beneath it.

THE BRITISH NAVY

(Daily Press, 8th April.)

Does the policy of concentrating the British Fleet in home waters imply a desire on the part of the Admiralty to increase its efficiency; or is the withdrawal of the various squadrons from outlying stations undertaken with the sole desire of economy, and with the deliberate intention of accustoming the nation to witness the gradual extinction of British influence with foreign Powers? It is characteristic of the little confidence reposed in the individuals of which the present Government is composed by either of the great parties, that the explanation of Lord TREWMOUTH, the present First Lord, go practically for nothing, while the one man who could tell, Admiral Sir JOHN FISHER, is, of course, bound by the exigencies of his office to

silence. Meanwhile the public remains in ignorance of the guiding spirit, and only knows from the external effects, which cannot be concealed, what really is the principle underlying the recent changes in the distribution of the ships. It is noteworthy that in the interpretation of these overt acts each of the great parties in the State has its own opinions, which differ diametrically. One thing is not denied, and that is that many of these changes have been avowedly made from motives of economy. The ship-building programme for the present year has been cut down, and it has been assumed by the side in opposition that this has been done with the object simply of gradually accustoming the country to a reduction of its armaments. The battleships on the Mediterranean and outlying squadrons have been reduced in number, or altogether withdrawn, and this is capable, of course, of two interpretations. On the one side it is alleged that this increases the power of quickly adding to the efficiency of one or other squadron as may be found momentarily advisable, while the other equally informs us that this has been done with the deliberate intention of permitting the foreign influence of Great Britain to gradually die out from want of exhibition. On the whole the balance of public opinion has rather tended against the Government, and it has been considered that it was merely a matter of time as to when the country would at last wake up to the danger of neglecting its chief means of defence, and that the most that could be hoped was that this awakening should come before some very serious danger was to be apprehended, for which the nation should all at once discover itself unprepared. Foremost amongst the newspapers which have taken an intelligent interest in the affairs of the Navy has of recent years been *Engineering*. Avowedly *Engineering* has been content to look on without being hampered by party ties to one side or the other. In this instance it is satisfactory so far to find that *Engineering* points out that much of the recent adverse criticism proceeds from want of sufficient appreciation of what has really been done, and what at the moment is actually going on. For instance much has been made of Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's supposed hesitation to accept the command of the Channel Fleet in view of certain unsatisfactory distributions of the new Home Fleet. Naturally much was made of this, the reason underlying Admiral BERESFORD's hesitation being presumed to indicate the desire of the Government to unduly weaken this fleet below any point of reasonable efficiency. If we are to accept the explanation offered by *Engineering* the misundersanding was on the contrary rather of a personal nature than one of naval efficiency. Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, in view of the importance of the Channel Command, held that it ought to include also the command in chief of the Home Fleet, which it is intended to make independent. This of course may be a matter of grave judgment on the instant, but can hardly be elevated to one of deep underlying principle. At all events, at the moment it is not very pressing; and doubtless in a case of actual emergency would go far to cure itself. There is in fact, after the late not altogether justifiable epidemic of would-be popular control, and popular criticism of the dilettante type, a reviving tendency to return to less embarrassing interferences. Much must be left to the personal judgment of the heads of any extensive and well-managed concern. It would for instance involve very unpleasant consequences to the

pockets of the shareholders were the Directors of one or of principal railways compelled to take their instructions as to fares, and details of construction generally from the shareholders, however competent each of them might be personally. "It is contended, we think wrongly," says our contemporary, "that the new distribution of business at the Admiralty involves one-man power, because instead of being responsible as formerly for the organization of war and distribution of the Fleet, the First Sea Lord is now, according to the new scheme, concerned with the preparation for war, with all the large questions of naval policy and maritime warfare, with the fighting and sea-going efficiency of the Fleet, its organization and mobilisation; with the control of the intelligence, hydrographical, and naval ordnance departments. This, however, is nothing more or less than an elaboration of the old order. In spirit it is the same; and so far as the interpretation is concerned, there is the fact that Sir JOHN FISHER, as one of the three members of the Fisher Committee, recommended that the old Admiralty system be applied at the War Office, because inter alia, it has retained the confidence of the Navy and the Nation." But is the present régime at the Navy so much of a "one-man power" as to involve danger to the State? *Engineering* on this point out that general supervision such as is centred in Sir JOHN FISHER does not preclude co-operation with colleagues and subordinates, "and the First Sea Lord would not be a very able officer if he failed to recognise the fact." He has had brilliant colleagues, and in a few weeks will be joined by Sir WILLIAM MAY and Rear-Admiral WINSOR, both of whom are capable, experienced, and progressive officers. Sir JOHN FISHER was appointed by the last Government, and is not the creation of the present administration, and so it can hardly be urged that he is in any way their creature, and no one would say of him that he has not the common-sense, in case his recommendations are made light of, or that his department is in any danger of suffering from undue parsimony, of making an appeal to the Nation at large. Meanwhile the nation seems to have every reason, hitherto at least, to place confidence in Sir JOHN FISHER; and having that confidence, and feeling that he is not the man to permit his intentions and designs to be trifled with by any ministry without speaking, we may apparently rest content. If the present Government could make the country equally assured with regard to the other departments of State, it would earn the gratitude of the nation; but this unfortunately sees us as far off as ever.

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED.

(Daily Press, 9th April.)

There is probably no question of wider interest in the Far East than the question of agreements as between employers and employed, and no question about which there is more need for fuller information and discussion. A Shanghai case reported elsewhere does not require special comment; it serves merely to call attention to the subject generally. There have been disputes of the kind recently in Hongkong and elsewhere, and they do not always necessarily get into court. The frequency, however, with which they are heard of, and the almost universal practice of making such agreements, suggests the desirability of both sides giving the fullest consideration to the matter. There is, we believe, a fairly general feeling among employers that

these agreements or contracts fail to secure all the advantages they are meant to do; yet there are difficulties in the way of dispensing with them. If all the employers simultaneously agreed to face the temporary inconvenience of waiting until the supply of labour—to use a generic term—became equal or more than equal to the demand, it is probable that matters would soon adjust themselves; and there would then exist the conditions familiar at home, by which the employee would find himself under the necessity of keeping the spirit as well as the letter of his contract. The feeling that his services were not indispensable, because quickly and easily replaced, would make the personal satisfaction of the employer a more important objective than it is in many cases at present. Good or valuable employees, on the other hand, would not feel dependent, knowing that another position, with speedy appreciation of honest effort, would follow any misunderstanding or attempt at overreaching on the part of the employer. Notwithstanding the grumbles of a couple of years ago, we also believe that the conditions of service and remuneration here and elsewhere in the Far East are sufficiently attractive to bring a sufficiency of employees. However, "old custom" is strong in this as in other matters, and the agreement system, by which the employer stipulates for more than he gets, and the employee contracts to do more than he usually does, will doubtless continue for many years to come. This means that generations of "griffins" will continue to meet with disappointment born of too great expectations, and employers to note the "slacking off" due to those disappointments. The ignorance of the youth at home, as to what he really may expect in these places, is notorious; and there is perhaps some carelessness exhibited by agents there who conduct the negotiations for "trapping the griffin." Too anxious, perhaps, to secure a likely enquirer, they may sometimes overcolour their pictures of life here, the after-office-hours life, that is to say. The modern young man (and for anything we know, the young man of all time) gives quite as much of his mind to those hours and their possibilities as to the hours in which he is to be permitted to diligently establish the foundations of a taipan-ship and a fortune. We have heard of cases where he was allowed to expect far too much, out of all comparison with his opportunities for enjoyment at home, yet his disappointment would be none the less for that. There might be less of that kind of disappointment, and it is a frequent source of trouble to both sides later, if employers or their agents were to confine their representations to the purely business side of the shield. To work so many hours, or at so many tasks, for a remuneration equal to so much per cent over normal living expenses, would be sufficient to tell the enquirer, and it would make him think for himself as to his future plans and purpose. To tell him that in Pagoda-land he can keep his own horse, his yacht, his men-servants, and enjoy a "run over to Japan" occasionally, is only to make mischief later. As it is, with the fare paid out and home, after a term more like a long vacation than anything else, there is not the best of persuasions to industry and effort. Agreements themselves are often too wide and too complicated. It is impossible to cover every possible point of every case, and in trying to be comprehensive, they often fail to secure essentials. The shorter and simpler they are, as a rule, the better it would be for both sides. One clause bad in law may vitiate all the rest of the agree-

ment, and the employer find himself face to face with the very trouble he was most anxious to be safeguarded against. As a rule, disputes do not arise without fault on one side or the other; and where employer and employee each mean to do fairly by each other, the written bond does not matter at all. That is why we often think no agreement is the best agreement—but as this by analogy savours of Free Love dogma and anti-marriage propaganda, it is perhaps as well not to regard it as the last word on the subject. If some one of our Chief Justices or able counsel were to write and publish a book on the law of the subject as it affects the Far East, we should predict an immediate success for it.

COLONIAL CONFERENCES.

(Daily Press, 10th April.)

The Colonial Conference may be a harbinger of good; in itself, it is not expected to mean much either way. *Punch* has some clever verses hitting off one aspect of it, but with all respect to our humorous contemporary's shrewdness, and admitting that the Colonies have deserved better things of the Mother Country than they have been used to, we believe that, so far as sentiment goes, there is no feeling in the Colonies that is not more than reciprocated in the United Kingdom. The tie of a common language is a close tie, but it is not the closest. A common interest or interests such as some optimistic people expect to result from this and succeeding conferences would be much more important, yet so far it has been denied. Whether a vital interest possible of being shared by countries so widely separated is ever likely to be discovered is a question which really candid people shrink from answering. To know one Colony well is to know how many and how divergent interests may be, and there is no doubt that Canada, Australia, and South Africa have as many points of potential conflict with the London Government as any absolutely foreign Power can be said to have. They are suggested from time to time in the ordinary course of events, and we need not pause here to make selections. The point is that the Colonial Conference should ideally be directed to sorting out all these possible issues, classifying and labelling them as essentials and non-essentials. A hasty consideration of the agenda as described by Lord ELGIN, Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon whom its preparation seems to have devolved, shows that nothing so practical has been attempted. This is not Lord ELGIN's fault, or the fault solely of the Home Government. The Colonies themselves do not seem to have taken the project very seriously, and in response to the invitation to submit subjects for discussion, only Australia, New Zealand, and Cape Colony have done so. The result is that, so far, its scope threatens to be somewhat limited. After making arrangements for future Conferences—clearing the decks for action, it is to be hoped—the Conference will discuss preferential trade (interests here are by no means identical), defence (another thorny subject in which much "scrub" will have to be cleared away), naturalization, emigration, judicial appeals, reciprocal admission to certain professions (a very delicate topic capable of much friction), extension of British interests in the Pacific (which seems to threaten a severe Colonial scolding for the Imperial Government), the metric system, and the reservation of Bills. It will be seen there is scope for a great deal of talking, but

whether on vital matters they will reach the juncture of issue necessary for compromise or settlement is another story. We are not swayed by the suggestion that previous meetings have ended in talk. The Jubilee and Coronation "Conferences" were different affairs altogether, mere holiday junketing, and though the present assembly does not at present promise much more, it has, as we have hinted, possibilities of leading to important results. At the worst, not to blink the fact that there is much misunderstanding between the statesmen and people at home and abroad due entirely to lack of mutual acquaintance, the Conference should show the members that there are good men on both sides, and give them the opportunity of arriving at a truer appreciation of each other. We maintain that the "insular prejudices" is not exclusively found in England; colonial born publicists are often tarred with the same brush; and travel to the homeland for such should have the same broadening mental effect that it is supposed to have on those travelling from the homeland. "What do they know of England, who only England know" was an amazingly clever line; but it is capable of a laptation. *Punch* after all is in that class, and some harmful philippics might be spared were it also remembered to ask: "What do they know of Empire, who only one Colony know?" Colonies are not appendages or dependencies any longer, nor are they so regarded by any save a few illiterate "Union-Jack-asses." The old meaning of "Empire" is unsuited to the new century; and the true Imperialist is not worried by such ideas as contained in the phrase "the tail wagging the dog." In non-essentials, it does not matter which end of the animal gets into motion first, as long as both or all wag together for essentials. The ideal relationship will be that of a father and adult sons; the ideal conference will be a sort of Family Council, where the admitted virility and independence of each member does not obscure the facts that knit and unite them. There must be no more Winston-Churchillisms, however, of talk of vetoes and the like.

APRIL 10TH: CICADAS MAKE MUSIC.

(Daily Press, April 11th.)

"Oh, to be in England, now that April's here." Yesterday it was no ill thing to be in Hongkong, for the time of the singing of the cicadas had come, and with the thermometer measuring seventy-two in the shade at eight o'clock in the morning, for those whose temperament disposes them to be glad in the sunshine, there was incentive to that "shrill, silent music" that vibrates the chords of the healthy human diaphragm. There was a purple haze, and the sea was a languorous beauty diaphanously clothed; the bleak uplands of Kowloon across the water became the shining ramparts of a Delectable Land; and the cicadas, making their hilarious debut, were insistent of the fact that the pageant of summer had begun its march. Thoughtful looking men descended from the Peak tram station, with hats tilted more loosely, and vests descript or unbuttoned, and though habit took them straightly to their several places of business, it was easy to imagine an involuntary pause, and a regretful glance about, just before they passed under the lintel, from the vibrant open air to cloistral silence, from the piping of Pan to the figures of commerce, from fluttering iridillaries to rustling counterfoils, from sylvan verdure to silken quotations. There be promises who already comment that the weather is become "stifky."

but not yet the time when "Nature pants, and every stream looks languid." There was energy abroad, yesterday morning, the energy that sets lambs skipping; and Zephyrus passed on the naughty whispered message of that arboreal devil—or is it a Dryad?—who so long has made it his or her business to tempt little boys to play truant. On such days as these we realize the true sadness of age; its chief tragedy, surely, is that it makes people too old to play truant.

MATTER OF OPINION.

(Daily Press, 11th April.)

Some journalistic hacks, cursed with an unprofessional knack of sincerity, must often share HAMLET's lament when things seem out of joint—"oh, cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right." Sometimes people maliciously say of surgeons that they are too fond of cutting and dissecting, and if there be in the world any creatures whom a fellow feeling should make wondrous kind, it is the people mentioned in the first three words of this paragraph. As a rule they do not love the knife; the newspaper surgeon would often prefer cases calling for ointments and unguents; as the clown is often a melancholic person, so the critic of the breakfast table may be naturally indisposed to criticize. But fate has hung a brassplate at his door, and he has to go as he is called. It is nowadays more or less of an open secret, of course, that newspapers are written by flesh and blood creatures of finite capacity; but owing to the old-fashioned fiction of omniscience, their limitational doings are apt to be judged by Olympian standards. To be silent is forbidden, and to speak is often to cause offence. The American Press is conducted by men on lines that are apparently deemed best in that go-ahead, money-making country, and like the Press in other lands, it gets kicks as well as half-pence. Lately, in connection with its treatment of the THAW murder trial, it has had to endure an extraordinary diversity of criticism. President ROOSEVELT has brought things to a head by ordering the Postmaster-General to exclude from the United States mails all newspapers publishing details of that trial. The demand for full reports is undoubted, even among English readers, and it is difficult to settle just where to draw the line. The journalist wooing the public is faced with the difficulty against which OVID warned lovers. He cannot be sure whether "no" does not mean "yes"; whether the arguments for and against a certain course are of sincerity or cant, earnestly meant or just said for the sake of decorum. It is amusing to note that "the dissemination through the medium of the public press, of the details of such sensational criminal cases, is favoured by influential bodies of ministers of religion, by the Union Federation of the Evangelical Ministers of Providence, R. I., and the Hampden Association of Congregational Clergymen at Springfield, Mass. The reason assigned for this singular decision is that the case furnished 'the greatest moral lesson of the age'." The candid critic is obliged to express disbelief in the suggestion that many people read such matter as they would a text-book of ethics. It favours of the notorious humbug of some of DE FOE's prefaces. At the same time it would be unjust to say that such reports are devoured as mere pornography. It were but honest to admit that it attracts by reason of its human interest, a true story of real life, and granted that it is universal and natural to feel curiosity as to our environment, savoury or

unsavoury, it seems a little hard to blame the Press for printing what in any case is relevantly spoken in open court, and discussed and passed on from mouth to mouth, in homes as well as in public places. If civilization should ever emancipate itself from the fig-leaf modesty that is believed to be really vice culture, it will one day be more consistent, and admit that naked truth in a newspaper is no more capable of mischief than the licentious Oriental literature that is thrust into the hands of Sunday school children. The Rev. Mr. BOWDLER was a much maligned man. It is possible that if Miss NESBITT had been less ignorant, less handicapped by the conspiracy that drapes the 'limbs' of pianos and ignores vital facts, she would have had less painful testimony to give. However, all this is at present merely to talk of "belling the cat"; the time and the courage and the RICHARD who will do it are yet to come. Meanwhile, the public should be as indulgent as it can be, and not over hastily condemn our American contemporaries, in whose motives there may have been a mixture not all sordid. It is amusing and not uninteresting to find an esteemed Japanese contemporary denouncing them "in the interests of decency and morals," and saying:

"Better still seems to us the system in vogue in Japan, under which, not only is the curious public excluded from the court room whenever statements offensive to morals or public peace are forthcoming, but no such statements are allowed to be printed."

Those who know the vernacular newspaper of Japan, and the gratuitous lengths to which it often goes, will thrust tongue in cheek at that, and suggest the trail of the missionary. In Japan of all countries, where a sort of Edenic innocence prevailed until foreign prudery intervened, such comments are a distinctly retrograde step.

HONGKONG GOVERNORS.

(Daily Press, 12th April.)

So Sir MATHEW NATHAN goes to the gubernatorial chair at Natal, and the speculators and rumour-mongers, who were almost on the point of making him Secretary of State for War, are effectually silenced. As we have not to say "good-bye" just yet, it may not be in bad taste to ventilate our little local grievance, and to express regret that it should have been thought necessary to make a mystery of the matter. Why his Hongkong friends and admirers should have had to wait for the information until our London correspondent could ascertain the facts and telegraph them, it is not easy to see. It has been amusing to note the wonderful variety of appointments given to Sir MATTHEW NATHAN by the gossips, and we fear some of them will be disappointed to find he remains a mere governor, and goes to an office worth one thousand pounds sterling less per annum. At Hongkong, according to the Year Book, the Governor's salary in 1906 was £6,000, and at Natal it was £5,000. So he pays a cool thousand a year for his enhanced prestige. While on the salary topic, it may be noted that the coming Governor, Sir FREDERICK D. LUGARD had £3,000 as Commissioner of Northern Nigeria. Col. Sir HENRY E. MCCALLUM, who is making way for Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, will receive £6,400 at Ceylon. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN will have just a thousand times more territory to rule over, and a population four times the size, with an import trade of nearly eleven millions sterling and exports about a quarter of that, and with a revenue of over four millions sterling instead of six hundred thousand. He goes from a par-

tially elective Legislative Council (such as "Natal" began with) to a responsible parliament. The figures so far given are based on the Daily Mail Year Book's statistics, which are not confirmed by WHITAKER, who, for instance, puts the area of Natal (including Zululand) at 29,200 square miles; the Daily Mail book says 35,371. The name "Natal" was given to the Colony by VASCO DA GAMA, who discovered it on Christmas Day, 1497. The bulk of the white population is British, though Boers are numerous. As a Colony, Natal is two years younger than Hongkong. It has 776 miles of Government railway open, and there is a great deal under construction. There is a legislative council as well as a parliament the former consisting of thirteen members nominated by the Governor. The Legislative Assembly has 43 members, elected by 18,944 electors with property qualification. The seat of the Governor will be at Pietermaritzburg, about 54 miles inland. This city has a corporation and a Mayor. Politics at the time of Sir MATTHEW NATHAN's advent will be found quiet, and trade dull.

Sir MATTHEW Nathan's successor at Hongkong, on whom interest will now be centred, is believed to be worthy in all ways, a strong man. Brigadier-General Sir FREDERICK DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., to give him his full title, is just 49 years of age. He was educated at Rossall and Sandhurst and obtained his first commission in May 1878 in the 9th Foot. He was promoted Captain in August 1885; Major in August 1896 and temp. Colonel in 1898, when he went to India. He saw active service in Afghanistan 1879-1880 for which he has a medal. He was in the Sudan Campaign of 1885, was mentioned in dispatches and received a medal with two clasps and the bronze star. The Burmah Campaign (1886-1887) followed the Sudan Campaign, and it was in this campaign that Captain LUGARD (as he then was) won his D. S. O. He was thrice mentioned in dispatches and received a medal with two clasps. In February, 1888, he went to Africa again, this time to command an expedition against slave traders on Lake Nyassa, and was very severely wounded. On his recovery he was employed by the British East African Co. to command the exploration of Sabakhi, and he was administrator of Uganda from 1889 to 1892. Two years later he was appointed by the Royal Niger Company to command an expedition to Borgu to negotiate British treaties. On this expedition he was bit by an arrow and returned in April 1895. In February 1896 he led another expedition across Kalahari for the British Charterland Company. On his return he received the appointment of His Majesty's High Commissioner of the Hinterland of Nigeria and Lagos and Commandant of the West African Frontier Force, which he raised. On January 1st, 1900, on the creation of the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria Colonel LUGARD was appointed High Commissioner with rank as Brigadier-General. Sir FREDERICK resigned this post in September last year. The explanation given in the papers was that Sir FREDERICK had exceeded the period of tenure of a Colonial Governorship in Northern Nigeria, which is limited to six years, and he did not wish to prolong his service there. The post had been no sinecure, for after the occupation of Kano and Sokoto in February and March 1903, steps were taken for the establishment of administrative control over the whole of the Protectorate which has an area of about 256,400 square miles and a population estimated at about 9,000,000.

The centre of administration is Zungeru, near the Kaduna River, a tributary of the Niger, and the Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into 17 provinces.

From the foregoing sketch of his career it will be seen that the new Governor's life, as he himself has said, has been one "more full of action than of leisure," and this is vividly realised by a perusal of his extremely interesting work on "The Rise of our East African Empire"—his first and only literary effort, we believe. It is a work of over 1,200 pages, issued in two volumes, and is recognised by all students of African questions not only as a work of absorbing interest but of real historical value.

Lady LUGARD also has claims to authorship. Her publications are given as "Castle Blair," 1878; "Hector: a story for Young People," 1883; and "A Topical Dependency," 1905. As Miss FLORA SHAW (daughter of the late Major-General Shaw, C. B.), she was the head of the Colonial department of the *Times*, and has undertaken special commissions for the *Times* to South Africa, Australia, Canada and the Klondike, so that, like her husband, whom she married in 1902, Lady LUGARD has lived the strenuous life.

A remarkable tribute was paid to Sir FREDERICK and Lady LUGARD a couple of years ago by the Rt. Hon. Earl GREY, at a meeting of members of the Colonial Institute before whom Lady LUGARD had read an extremely able and interesting paper on Nigeria under the title of "West African Negroland." Earl GREY said:—"The other day Mr. FEMMOTT, one of our most promising Liberal members of Parliament, described Sir FREDERICK LUGARD as the principal asset of Nigeria. Well, as long as he is not interfered with by politicians at home, I believe it is perfectly true he is the best asset Nigeria possesses; and the fact that he has the right to draw, as he undoubtedly does on the lofty idealism, the untiring industry and the sound common sense of Lady LUGARD does not diminish the value of that asset." In coming to Hongkong Sir FREDERICK LUGARD succeeds a Governor whom the whole community regards as the ideal man for the post. There exists among all sections of the community nothing but the frankest admiration for his conspicuous abilities as an administrator and his attractive qualities as a gentleman; and if Sir FREDERICK LUGARD, when his period of tenure expires, is able to leave the Colony with the same measure of goodwill that Sir MATHEW NATHAN has won, the community and Sir FREDERICK and Lady LUGARD alike will have abundant reason to feel satisfied. They can at any rate be assured of a most cordial welcome.

CHINA IN TIBET.

(Daily Press 13th April.)

China's diplomatic protest against the migration into Tibet of a body of missionaries brings back into consideration the present position of that country. It is open and yet not open. The British Government, strange to say, is responsible for a quite typically Chinese policy of exclusion just at present, for which no reasons other than sentimental ones can be guessed. Various people anxious to explore Mahatmaland have been refused the permission of the Indian Government, and Dr. SVEN HEDIN, in order to make the latest journey, about which he has sent such triumphant messages, had practically to start by defying the authorities. It would be exceedingly unlikely that small parties of private explorers

could do much to embarrass Anglo-Russian relations, and in any case, after Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND's expedition, it is improper to truckle to any other Power, however much interested in Tibet they may profess to be. That Tibet will ever be a greatly advantageous trading country to British or Indian merchants is extremely doubtful, but for whatever it has to offer, it will be a shame, a political shame, if Great Britain's first option is allowed to be ignored. Dr. HEDIN talks of Tibetan gold fields, and if in the future there should prove to be an Himalayan Klondike, it would be well that the rights obtained by YOUNGHUSBAND's hard work should not be overlooked. The Tibetans themselves want to be let alone, to isolate themselves, and so long as they were not withholding anything calculated to further the development of the outside world, and did not meddle with their neighbours, they were permitted to have their way. It was not considered worth while to trouble about them. Even China, who assumed suzerainty, was content to let her authority be largely nominal. But the border Tibetans did not leave their neighbours alone, and caused continual trouble to the Indian Government by molesting traders and other travellers, and by shifting boundary marks. When it was learned that this exclusive people were at the same time harbouring emissaries from Russia, the need for intervention became apparent. Their stupid behaviour, much of it induced by over-cunning intriguing, brought upon themselves the indignity to which they had to submit—the presence of an armed force in the holy city of Lhasa. For diplomatic reasons, Great Britain gracefully admitted China's claims, although there was the clearest evidence that Chinese officials had been meddling unfairly with the preliminary negotiations between the Tibetan authorities and the British. The Home Government did not cover itself with credit at all by the way in which it neutralised the value of the work done by the man on the spot; and its weakness may become apparent later, when it is seen how China will act in return for re-establishing her authority. At present it may be noted that the objection to Szechwan missionaries crossing into Tibet originated with Chinese, and not with Tibetans. We can certainly agree with the Chinese AMBA that these intruders would be sure to breed trouble, and we scout as humbug all pretensions to desire Tibet's opening up "for the good of the Tibetans." If to check Russia to promote trade, to exploit minerals, or even to extend the influence and prestige of any one of our numerous religious cults, we force open Tibet, it "can do," as the Hongkong phrase has it; but let us by all means avoid the hypocrisy of professing to conquer or kill Tibetans for their own good. The sketchy but trustworthy accounts of the most recent invaders show that the Tibetans have got along fairly comfortably hitherto, without the blessings of foreign civilization; and it is not to be doubted that for every extra comfort he takes in, the white man carries in a load of trouble and annoyance also. In connection with this latest incident, therefore, we find ourselves in "the dilemma" of supporting the Chinese argument while mistrusting its motive.

An exemplary sentence was passed by M. Hazeland on April 10 upon a Chinaman whom he found guilty of snatching earrings from a little girl in the street after blinding her with pepper thrown in her eyes. He was ordered to undergo six weeks hard labour, six hours in the stocks and to receive two whippings with the birch, twelve strokes each time, afterwards to be banished.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, April 8th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPEAL AGAINST A MAGISTRATE'S DECISION.

An appeal was opened in which the Building Authority was respondent and Fung Chun-yuen appellant.

The Attorney-General, Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, instructed by Mr. G. E. Merrill, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Building Authority, the appellant being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

Mr. Slade stated that on a previous occasion the defendant was summoned before a magistrate for having failed to comply with the terms of a notice to abate a nuisance. By reason of defects in that notice the magistrate held that he had no power to order the abatement of a nuisance under section 230, but by virtue of powers given him by section 22 of the Magistrate's Ordinance he adjudicated upon facts proved before him and found that an offence had been committed, namely that this building had been erected without the approval first obtaining in writing the consent of the Building Authority. The only thing rendered unlawful under section 22 was the commencement of the work without the previous sanction of the Building Authority. Nothing but the commencement was unlawful according to the Ordinance.

The Chief Justice—I think if it was commenced illegally it ends illegally.

Mr. Slade—Not, I submit, unless there is something in the Act to that effect. If your Lordship hold that you would make an assumption against a person accused in a criminal case that he was guilty without being proved guilty. Because the Director of Public Works did not approve these buildings, it does not follow that they are illegal.

The Chief Justice—Supposing the building to have been finished without the approval of the plans?

Mr. Slade—It is done every day, my Lord.

The Chief Justice—You say the building was commenced illegally, and for the commencement of the building the appellant was convicted.

Mr. Slade—That's so, my Lord.

The Puisne Judge—And under section 231 you order him to remove the building as a nuisance.

Mr. Slade—The commencement is a nuisance, but nothing else.

The Puisne Judge—Then it is the existence.

Mr. Slade—Why, my Lord, in contravention of what section of the Ordinance does this building stand? None. It was commenced in contravention of a section, but that does not say it remains in contravention. It is a matter of supreme importance in the interpretation of a Statute, especially of criminal law, that the words of a section of the ordinance should not be stretched to impose a penalty where the clear words do not impose a penalty: the clear words of section 22 prohibit the commencement only. The question your Lordships have to answer is "Does that section by prohibiting, create a continuing offence?" I could not ask your Lordships to stretch the wording of the section in favour of the accused, but I ask you not to stretch it in favour of the Crown. That is a thing we have suffered from in this colony to a great extent.

The Chief Justice—All statutes have to be construed in the same way—a strict interpretation.

Mr. Slade—I fully agree with your Lordship, but a great many bad cases have occurred through judges not fulfilling their obligations in that respect.

The Attorney-General stated that his learned friend, to make the defence good, would have to show that the offence was not a continuing one. First of all the defendant was fined for having commenced the building without having either put in plans or having had them approved. A man might begin without plans but in that case he was subject to a fine of \$100. He might then put in plans which were disapproved and

be subject to a further fine. Then he might put in fresh plans which were incomplete and again be fined. Disobedience to a valid notice must be held a continuing offence.

Their Lordships reserved their decision.

WHAT IS OPIUM?

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) moved for a writ of *a certiori* in the case in which the Opium Farmer claimed certain cases of muriate of morphia said to be in transit to Shanghai. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared on behalf of the Opium Farmer to oppose the motion.

Sir Henry Berkeley objected to his learned friends who appeared for the Farmer being in attendance to oppose a motion made absolute. Only persons who were interested had a right to appear, and the only persons interested were the prosecutor and the defendant. The Opium Farmer had no *locus standi* to oppose this application.

The objection was not upheld and Mr. Pollock proceeded. He said he and his learned friend, Mr. Slade, appeared to show cause against the writ of *a certiori* being granted, and against their Lordships making an order absolute to quash the order made by the magistrate under section 39 of the Ordinance of 1891. Their Lordships would probably remember the two grounds put forward in the notice of motion filed on behalf of Mr. Hoffman for quashing the magistrate's order. One which was alleged was that muriate of morphia was not opium within the meaning of that term as used in section 2 of Ordinance 8 of 1891. The other ground alleged in the notice of motion was that by reason of section 39 of Ordinance 8 of 1891 the magistrate's power of forfeiture only extended to opium not found in possession of any person, whereas these four cases were found in the possession of the Godown Company as agents for Hoffman. Dealing with the first point they submitted that it was a question as to whether their Lordships were competent to enter into the point. In an application of this sort, which was made by way of a *certiori*, they submitted that the finding that this substance was a question of fact, and the only proceedings so far as one could see by which that question of fact could be questioned, would be by way of appeal to the Full Court in the ordinary way from the decision of a Magistrate.

The Chief Justice—When discussing the application in Chambers we thought it was construction. Since then we feel that a notice which enables you to confiscate opium does not enable you to confiscate muriate of morphia and that *ex facie* the notice is bad.

Mr. Pollock—The question is one of jurisdiction. Unless the other side can attack the magistrate's finding on the question of jurisdiction, that would be a matter which could not be gone into by way of a *certiori*. Under section 39 of Ordinance 8 of 1891, the magistrate had jurisdiction to forfeit opium, therefore it was an integral part of the magistrate's decision that the substance he ordered to be forfeited was opium. Opium was a generic name which included many substances.

The Chief Justice considered that when the notice mentioned muriate of morphia, the magistrate should have put the paper aside and said he had no jurisdiction. Then the notice could be amended for the seizure of opium, in which case he would have jurisdiction.

Sir Henry Berkeley then proceeded to quote authorities to rebut the points raised by the other side.

The Puisse Judge—Under the warrant the Farmer could apparently arrest all the people in the godown.

The Chief Justice—Either by himself or his agents.

Sir Henry Berkeley—In order that the magistrate could order the seizure of this opium two conditions precedent must appear on the order. Firstly, opium must be ordered to be forfeited. He has no jurisdiction to order the forfeiture of muriate of morphia. If therefore, a magistrate assuming to act under section 39 orders the forfeiture of anything except opium that order is bad, and would be quashed *on certiori*. The second condition

which must appear on the face of the order is that the opium ordered to be forfeited was not in the apparent possession of anyone. These proceedings have been conducted irregularly, and the order is bad in form on the very face of it.

Mr. Slade said the rules under which a writ of *certiori* was granted were always strictly enforced. Unless steps were correctly taken in the application for the procedure of the writ, an order was never made absolute.

Decision reserved.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS: INJUNCTION DISSOLVED.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) moved on behalf of the Hongkong High Level Tramways Co. Ltd. and Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son, defendants, for the discharge of an injunction granted by his Lordship on March 28th, 1906, to the plaintiffs, Mr. D. E. Brown and others, on behalf of himself and other shareholders in the said Tramway Co. He also moved that the undertaking given by the defendants be discharged on the ground that the defendants had duly complied with the terms of the order and the necessary consent of the Governor-in-Council had been obtained to the absolute assignment by the defendant Company (in liquidation) of the whole of their undertaking to the Peak Tramways Co. Ltd. The whole of the facts were set out in Mr. Humphreys's affidavit which showed that the necessary resolutions had been passed; that there were no dissentients the whole Company agreeing to the transaction.

Mr. Slade produced the *Governor's Gazette* setting forth the notice of order. His Lordship made an order discharging the injunction.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

AN ASSIGNMENT QUESTION.

His Lordship delivered judgement in the case in which Chan Wo and others sued Chan Yum and others for the payment of a sum of \$4,258 out of Court.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for defendants.

His Lordship said: In this case the plaintiffs are suing for a sum of money in Court, amounting to \$4,258, of which a sum of about \$1,000 is admitted by the defendants, so that the sum at issue is trifling. The claim arises out of an assignment, dated March 2nd, 1899, by which the defendants assigned the Wah Hing Loong business to the plaintiffs, and the question to be decided is whether such assignment included certain debts alleged to be due to the Wah Hing Loong by the Wai Tai and Fung Shing firms. It is admitted by the plaintiffs that the assignment as originally drafted did not include these debts, but it is stated that at the request of the first plaintiff the assignment was altered before signature so as to include them. Therefore the point is whether the alteration was made before signature or after. This, of course, amounts to an allegation of fraud by the defendants, and therefore they have to prove fraud, but supposing evidence of fraud (taken for what it is worth) is produced, then it seems to be that a man who sues on an admittedly altered document has to prove that the alteration was made before signature and not after. It is clear from the document itself that at the time it was made these debts were looked upon as bad debts, and it is difficult to understand why the first plaintiff should insist on their inclusion. He admits that the price previously agreed to be paid by him for the business, etc., excluded these debts, and he gives his reasons for it, but his evidence on the subject of the alterations and his reasons for it hardly seem satisfactory, and, what is more, he handed over his security for the Fung Shing debts to Chan Yum. Chan Wo's accountant, who wrote the assignment, also supports his master as to the alteration. This practically is the evidence for the plaintiff. On the part of the defendants it

was of course contended that the alteration was made after signature and it was pointed out that a document produced by the plaintiffs as a copy of the original assignment was at any rate not an exact copy, and in one place there is a considerable variation. Chan Yum also denies the genuineness of the signatures at the end of this alleged copy, and states that it is a false book altogether. The assignment was advertised by both parties and the weak spot in the defendant's case is that neither of the advertisements make any reference to the exclusion of the Wai Tai and Fung Shing debts, and Chan Yum's explanation is not altogether satisfactory. One explanation given is that it was unnecessary to refer to the exclusion of debts in the advertisements, as it was already referred to in the balance sheet, and the other is that the first plaintiff objected to the reference. Tsang Tung-ka also denies his signature to the alleged copy, as also does Tsang Sung-kui. On the whole, I am of opinion that the balance of probability lies with the defendants. The plaintiffs have not established their case to my satisfaction. I presume they will get their \$3,000, so there is very little left to fight for. Judgment for defendants and costs.

Tuesday, April 9th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

MISSING CHATELS.

Wong Hing sued Au Wai to recover \$50 damages for wrongfully depriving the plaintiff of a wooden safe and its contents including money and other articles. He also claimed the return of the safe, goods, articles and things or payment of \$600, their value, and the appointment of a receiver of the said articles.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) for the defendant.

His Lordship—You claim damages for wrongfully depriving, and return of value?

Mr. Harding—Yes.

His Lordship—And you claim damages for detaining. Where is your authority for that?

Mr. Harding admitted having none.

Mr. Holborow—My friend's sole claim on the writ is for wrongfully receiving or wrongfully detaining. He has got the goods.

Mr. Harding—They are in Mr. Howell's possession pending the result of the action.

His Lordship—There was an application to me for the appointment of Mr. Howell as receiver without security. He was to remove the goods. Has that been done?

Mr. Harding—Yes. He has everything with the exception of two account books. What I ask now is for an order for the delivery up of those things by the receiver.

His Lordship—You won't get an order of that kind from me; you can't get it from me. I want an order drawn up stating that a receiver has been appointed first of all.

Mr. Howell—I have that order, my Lord.

His Lordship—I haven't seen it.

The order was produced.

Mr. Harding—The defendant was the tenant of the third floor of 264 Queen's Road Central, and fifteen months ago he let one of the rooms on this floor to my client.

His Lordship—Here's another point. Mr. Howell is plaintiff; now he's receiver.

Mr. Harding—He is receiver only for the time being.

His Lordship—The order doesn't say so.

Mr. Harding—That's the usual order made.

His Lordship—It may be, but I don't think it's right. I have been receiver in a great many cases in this Colony.

Mr. Harding stated that when his client went to Canton at the beginning of March he left his goods in a room rented from the defendant. When he returned he discovered strangers in possession, and found that his goods had been removed.

His Lordship—Your client paid \$600 rent for one room?

Mr. Harding—Yes.

His Lordship—That's all I could get for a house before.

Proceeding, Mr. Harding said the plaintiff applied for his things, but defendant refused to give them up. There was a quarrel in which his client was assaulted and subsequently both parties were taken to the police station and fined \$1 apiece. Plaintiff applied again for his goods later, but defendant refused to let them go and gave plaintiff, in charge for attempting to rob him.

After hearing the evidence, his Lordship said he had not the slightest evidence before him with regard to the claim for wrongfully depriving. With reference to the return of the goods, the plaintiff had them all except two books and he ought to be very happy that he had his \$95. He was a very lucky man indeed. The receiver would be discharged, and there would be judgment for defendant and costs.

Wednesday, 10th April.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION

CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.

The case was concluded in which Ho Yee sued Ip Chek-po to recover \$300, money lent on December, 17th.

Mr. R. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the defendant.

Mr. Harding—I understand my friend has subpoenaed the Bank, but I don't know what evidence they are going to give.

Mr. Kong Sing—Neither do I.

His Lordship—I know what they ought to give.

Mr. E. O. Murphy, clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, said the defendant withdrew \$1,000 from the Bank on November 23rd.

His Lordship was of opinion that there was no case for the defendant to meet, and entered judgment and costs on his behalf.

Thursday, April 11th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR ADJUDICATION.

The King Yue Tai firm *ex parte* Lo Sing Sam.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) who appeared for the debtor firm, applied for adjudication, and for the appointment of Mr. Kemp as trustee of the estate. The speaker attended the first general meeting held on March 28th when no resolution was passed and the meeting was not adjourned. The application was granted.

THE LONG HING BANKRUPTCY.

Re Long Hing and Co. *ex parte* Choi Chu-Sang.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, who represented the petitioning creditor, applied for a receiving order. The debt for which the petition was filed was \$500, balance due on a promissory note, and the act of bankruptcy was notice suspending payment of debts.

His Lordship—What are the assets?

Mr. Almada—The assets consist of about \$5,000 or \$6,000, and the liabilities are about \$14,000. An interim receiving order has been made, and the interim receiver has certain monies in his possession already.

Application granted.

NO SUBSTANTIAL DIVIDEND.

Re Ho Ping, *ex parte* the debtor.

Mr. H. K. Holmes for the petitioning order. The declaration of the debtor showed that his liabilities amount to \$7,031. Of this, however, \$3,280 was liability as surety which might or might not have to be paid. His assets would amount to a sum of \$500 cash, which certain relatives agreed to pay. Debtor also received a salary of \$40 a month.

His Lordship—The assets are not enough.

Mr. Holmes—Similar applications have been granted where the only source from which the creditors were likely to receive any dividend was the debtors' salary.

Mr. Kemp—The creditors in this instance are not likely to get five per cent.

Mr. Holmes—I understand \$500 will be handed over to the Receiver.

His Lordship—But a salary of \$40 a month won't go far. I don't see where your substantial dividend is to come from.

Mr. Holmes applied for an adjournment to arrange matters. Granted.

CHUNG SHUN-KOO'S AFFAIRS.

Re Chung Shun-koo *ex parte* Sam Che-chuen, Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) applied on behalf of Chung Ching-kwai, brother of the debtor, for the return of \$2,200 which was paid to the Official Receiver to prevent the sale by auction of certain property belonging to the debtor. Mr. Master did not know whether Mr. Looker meant to oppose the application, but he had given that gentleman notice of his intention to apply. In September last, after a receiving order had been made, there was interest on a certain mortgage on property at Kowloon in arrears, and the mortgagee instructed Messrs. Hughes and Hough to put the property up for sale. On the morning of the sale the debtor's brother went to the Official Receiver and paid \$2,200 to clear the interest and expenses of the sale in order to prevent the property being sold. The declaration on the file, said the debtor's brother, had no intention of parting with his money without security, and Mr. Wakeman gave Chung Ching-kwai to understand there would be a sort of security—a charge on the property.

His Lordship—I understand it was paid as a special advance to the estate. It was to come out of the estate.

Mr. Master—Yes, and the only objection that can be taken is by the creditors. I don't think there can be any great objection, otherwise Mr. Looker would have been here this morning.

His Lordship—This really does not come into the bankruptcy.

Mr. Master—It is an exceptional circumstance. An advance after the bankruptcy.

His Lordship—Has the property been sold?

Mr. Master—It was sold last January.

In reply to his Lordship Mr. Kemp said he had no objection, and suggested that the application might come under section 33, subsection 1A of the Ordinance, which dealt with "actual expenses incurred by a receiver."

His Lordship (after reading)—Yes, that is the section. The money was advanced to the receiver, not to the debtor. You (Mr. Master) can take your order.

MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

Re Wong Sau-po and others *ex parte* Wong Cheung oi.

Mr. R. Harding made application for the return of deeds lodged as security for the appearance of Wong Sau-po at his public examination. The deeds were lodged by a man called Wong Hing-shun.

His Lordship—I have decided, that if there is any chance of his appearance being required, the security must stay.

Mr. Harding—I submit there is not the slightest chance.

Mr. Kemp—Mr. Wakeman objected to the return of the security on the grounds that the debtor has not been discharged.

Mr. Harding—He has since been discharged.

His Lordship—But a debtor whose discharge is suspended can be required to come up.

Mr. Harding—He might be, but the probability is very remote.

His Lordship—Wasn't there a condition with regard to subsequent earnings?

Mr. Harding—I don't know, my Lord.

His Lordship (to the Official Receiver)—If you don't want his assistance any more—

Mr. Kemp—I can't say I will not.

Mr. Harding—He might want his appearance ten years hence.

His Lordship—But this is only during the period of his suspension. The Receiver can report to me within two months.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

FAMILY TROUBLES.

Chan Lai-chun brought action against Chan Chun-lee and others to recover \$184.86 being balance due for work done.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for the defendants.

Mr. Dixon stated that the four defendants and the plaintiff lived at Shatin where, during the typhoon of September 18th, a sea-wall used to prevent the sea from encroaching on the paddy fields which ran along the shore was very seriously damaged. A meeting was held by various owners of paddy fields in the neighbourhood and it was decided that the sea-wall should be repaired. The superintending of the work and the employment of labour were left in the hands of the plaintiff who employed a contractor. An agreement was signed by the plaintiff, the four defendants and others wherein it was agreed that the sea-wall should be repaired by the owners of paddy fields, the expenses being borne according to the size of each man's plot. The work was carried out at a cost of \$500, and the proportion due by the defendants in respect of the paddy fields belonging to their family was \$316.54. Two-thirds of this amount, \$211.02, was the defendants' share, but their mother had paid an amount of \$41 on account of the indebtedness, leaving the amount claimed, \$184.86, still due.

Plaintiff was then called, and proceeded to tell such a far fetched story that his Lordship threatened to send him to jail. Mr. Dixon withdrew from the case, and judgment was entered for defendants with costs.

THE MONEYLENDER AGAIN.

Chanda Singh sued F. M. X. Souza and Un Wai-po to recover \$250 due on a promissory note.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro for the defendant.

When the note was drawn up it was signed by the first defendant and witnessed by the second, who wrote his name in Chinese. The plaintiff admitted that he did not know what the second defendant wrote, but he took the note to another Indian who advised that the note should have started "We jointly and severally promise to pay." Then the plaintiff took the note back to the first defendant and asked him to alter it accordingly. This was done, but the alteration was not initialled.

When the evidence had been heard Mr. Almada consented to judgment on behalf of the first defendant, but asked that he be allowed to pay off the amount in instalments.

His Lordship gave judgment against the first and ordered him to pay \$5 a month. He also entered judgment for the second defendant, and calling the plaintiff before him, told him he had seen him often before, and knew him to be one of the extortionate usurers who charged exorbitant rates of interest. (In this instance the rate was about 100 per cent.) He recognised this particular moneylender notwithstanding that his whiskers were tied up, whereas previously they used to hang down. (To the Interpreter) Tell him to go away.

Friday, April 12th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

SOLDIERS' SHEETS.

Ramsin Khan, a private of the H.K.S.B. R.G.A., sued Maklan to recover \$6, the price of a bed sheet lost by the defendant. Bhofu Khan a unit of the same regiment, sought to recover \$12 for two sheets which the defendant lost.

Defendant admitted losing one sheet.

His Lordship—Did you lose three sheets?

Defendant—Yes.

His Lordship—Now the question comes down, to the value of the sheets. I am perfectly certain from my own experience that soldiers' sheets, don't cost \$6 apiece. (To first plaintiff) How do you make the price of a bed sheet \$6?—We paid nine rupees.

Where did you buy them?—In India.

His Lordship—I'll get them here for you at \$2 and make a profit out of that.

The Judge's clerk explained that the sheeting cost sixty cents a yard.

His Lordship (to the Interpreter)—Just tell them I think they must have very long beds.

First plaintiff—The sheets are lined with silk.

His Lordship (to defendant)—How much are you prepared to pay?—I'll buy one for them.

How much are you prepared to pay?—I should think they were worth \$2 each.

How much are you prepared to pay?—\$2 for each sheet.

His Lordship (to plaintiffs)—Will you take that?—No.

His Lordship—Well, the three of you had better go and sit down and talk it over. I'm not going to allow \$6 a sheet. I'm certain about that. If you choose to have silk lined sheets that's your look-out.

After an argument in the centre of the Court the parties again appeared before his Lordship, and the defendant announced that the plaintiffs had asked him to buy sheets for them.

His Lordship asked plaintiffs whether they would be satisfied if he adjourned the case to see if defendant procured suitable sheets.

Plaintiffs agreed and both cases were fixed for Tuesday morning when the soldiers are to report on the quality of their sheets.

Defendant—Am I to pay the costs?

His Lordship—Why not? You admitted losing the sheets. If you have not paid the costs and provided the sheets by Tuesday morning there will be judgment and costs against you for the full amount claimed in the writs.

A PRACTICAL DYER.

During the hearing of an action before His Honour the Puisne Judge in the Supreme Court on April 10, Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) proceeded to examine a witness concerning the dyeing business. He asked—You're a dyer in this firm and dye cloth?—Yes.

What do you pay for dye?—I don't know. If you want to know that at once, go and ask the accountant.

But you're a practical dyer?—Yes, I'm a

SIR FREDERICK LUGARD.

INCIDENTS IN A WONDERFULLY INTERESTING CAREER.

The life story of our new Governor, like that of the famous Moor of Venice, with its "most disastrous chances, its moving accidents by flood and field, and its hair-breadth escapes" is one of captivating interest. In our reference to his appointment on April 12th we allude to his book, "The Rise of our East African Empire" as revealing the mettle of the man, and, though the work is not intended as an autobiography, there are nevertheless scattered among its pages many most interesting autobiographical details, from which we propose to make a few extracts, confident that they will be read with the keenest interest and enjoyment.

No chapter in any work of fiction can excel in interest the opening pages of the book, in which the author relates how his work in East Africa began, and we need make no apology for the length of the following extract:—

A DECK PASSAGE TO MASSOWA.

"In August 1887 I returned from the Burma campaign in which heavy work and a bad climate had shattered my health. Unwilling, by going on sick-leave, to be again an absentee from my regiment—from which I had been already separated while serving in the Sudan and Burma campaigns unaccompanied, whereby my absence involved extra duty on the others—I effected an exchange to the battalion at home, and reached England in September 1887. The few weeks' leave, which was all that was granted me, after many continuous years in the East,—including two campaigns of nearly a year each, in perhaps the worst climates in the world,—had not sufficed to restore my health, when I found myself again under orders for foreign service, and embarked with my regiment for

Aden, to the cook's galley alongside,—in the Red Sea! where the heat was such as would try a black stoker.

"Adversity finds us strange bedfellows," and in a somewhat varied experience it has struck me as most wonderful what an amount of human kindness and genuine true-heartedness comes to the surface under such circumstances, hidden often under the roughest exterior. My diary bears witness to this again and again, how always in my extremity I met nothing but generosity, how everybody on all occasions treated me with a singular kindness, which, in my lonely position, made me often feel almost foolishly grateful. A fine stalwart fellow—an Italian who spoke some English, the boatwain of the crew—had become my friend. Rough he was, but he treated me with a respect to which my position laid no claim. I saw him but seldom, but though I was herded with Arab coolies and Italian roughs, he saw through my disguise, and told me he knew I was a gentleman, and did all he could to make my way easy. His story he confided to me, and, poor fellow, it was a sad one indeed. Impulsive but sincere, he surprised me one evening by suddenly saying, with a fervid imprecation "I do anything for you. You want shirt, I give you my own shirt off my back (seizing it in his hand), because you have good heart," and he turned abruptly away to hide his emotion. I suffered much from sleeplessness, and the well-meant sympathy of this good-hearted fellow touched me deeply. It was not a voyage de luxe, as would appear from the only descriptive passage I can find in my diary. At last, at 8.30, I made up my bed. The very coolies on board have a mattress of sorts or a quilted mat. I have only a rug, and the iron legs of which I sleep has some nuts in it, which are uncomfortable. And a pipe stuck off behind my head, and again at my knees, so I have only about 4 feet of length and one of breadth, and my legs have to hang over, but it is cleaner than the deck. In another passage I

to inquire about the value of the premises.

you wanted to dye your clothes?—Yes, but you pay for enough dye to dye them. I wouldn't pay anything.

His Lordship—I suppose you would

POPULAR GOVERNOR.

THE MEMBERS FOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN. The consent, Sir Matthew Nathan's from the Colony is held to warrant a special expression of the admiration and esteem for him.

They have met to put the matter in the hands of Hon. Sir Paul Chater, the Hon. E. J. B. the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. Mr. J. B. the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. E. Osborne, the Hon. Mr. W. J. B. the Hon. Mr. D. R. Law, J. P. M. Sm. Wood, H. E. omkins, G. Balloch, E. J. A. J. Raymond, T. F. Hough, H. J. Armstrong, E. Ormiston, H. H. D. Clark, G. H. Medhurst, R. She. P. White, Murray Stewart, H. W. Look. Fook, Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, and Un Lai Chun.

Mr. Chater was voted to the chair. The Hon. A. Hewett was appointed secretary of the meeting.

Various proposals had been made and considered, and eventually decided unanimously to present His Excellency with an illuminated address which all the members of the community will be invited to sign.

The gentlemen present stated that a meeting had been called to consider the question of presenting a separate address.

A committee was then appointed to draw up the terms of the address.

A meeting of Chinese gentlemen was held on Saturday night it was decided to present His Excellency with a separate address, but at another meeting held yesterday it was agreed to join the rest of the community in the general address. It was decided to present him with Chinese articles, such as books, and

was permitted to me on the recommendation of a medical board. The question then was, what should I do? What I felt I needed was active hard work rather than rest in order to recover from the strain. So with fifty sovereigns in my belt, and with practically no outfit at all except my favourite little .45 rifle,—which had done me service already in many countries, for some years—I got on board the first passing ship, as a second-class passenger, and sailed I knew not whither. It was a strange experience, beginning life all over again, as it seemed, with only an old rifle, paid for—in the absence of funds—by shooting a man-eating tiger with a reward on his head!

"We got to Naples, to which port the ship was bound. I had done my utmost before leaving England to obtain permission to join the Italians, then fighting against the Abyssinians, and smarting from their recent reverse at Dogali. I had failed, and was told the thing was impossible. So having come to Italy I now took the night train to Rome, and once more offered my services, pleading the five medals and decorations which I already wore (including the D.S.O., then recently instituted) as my only claim for consideration.

"They would have none of me, and told me that I should be arrested as a spy immediately on my arrival in Abyssinia; that the only 'foreigner' there was the Times correspondent, and even he had only won permission after eight days of negotiation, backed by a letter from her Majesty's Government and the Times influence. I returned by the night mail, and found my ship on the point of sailing. Embarking, I went in her as far as Suez. I led here a very curious life, a chapter indeed in itself; but I am not writing an autobiography, and must pass on. My sovereigns were running down, and I was driven to strange shifts and expedients. By-and-by a ship came in bound for Massowa, and laden with timber. In the exigency of the diminishing resources, I took this time a deck passage, and slept at haphazard among the timber. The necessities of the case have me for my morning bath to the fore-castle and a bucket of water among the masts, and for my seal of brotherhood with the Italian

though they are in my memory. We arrived at Massowa on February 25th. My resolve had been to join the Italian expedition; and, denied in my attempts hitherto, I had come here in pursuance of my original plan. Landing in the evening at Massowa, I went to a hotel, and found that there was a railway as far as Dogali, and that the Italian advanced camp lay at Batu beyond. I managed to pick up a Somali who, having from Aden, had acquired a knowledge of Hindustani; and promising him a liberal reward (which I could ill afford), I secured his services. We mounted a train, and presently an Italian official came and demanded our passports. I effected a clever ignorance. He gesticulated in various languages, and I responded in English or Hindustani, volubly assuring him it was all right in a language he did not understand, and ignoring his earnest efforts to induce me to comprehend that he wanted a passport. I was as courteous as possible in Hindustani,—but as stupid as a mule, and failed to perceive that I must immediately get out or produce the desired document. The train began to move. The exasperated official, finding himself in a dilemma, gave me up as hopeless, but there was no mistaking his meaning that he would catch the Somali at any rate. I told the latter (in Hindustani) to 'hang on'; the official tried to pull him out; I expostulated, as though my feelings were much hurt. The train moved faster and faster, till the official was compelled to drop off; and I expect it was just as well that I did not understand his language, and so could not gather the tenor of his observations, but I guessed them!

"We reached Dogali, and started on a night walk by the light of a nearly full moon, along the broad road made by the Italian troops passing in some manner various contrivances. From time to time we found temporary sheds by the road side, where all kinds of impossible and parti-coloured drinks were sold. At one of these we stopped, and the Somali explained to me that a small boy, who knew some Italian, and spoke Arabic (as did the Somali), lived here, and that if we could secure him, we might

get through the sentries; otherwise it would go hard with us.

"The night was intensely hot, and I invested in some cheap drink, and opened negotiations with the café-keeper. They were eventually successful, and we started now with the boy attached. It had become night long since, and the road was lonely, except for an occasional soldier, and he seldom sober. What the precise danger was I am not aware—whether from hostile natives or the fear of an Italian sentry shooting us; for, of course, we knew no countersign, or even the ordinary pass-word. Anyway, it began to be obvious that the boy was in a desperate fright, and even the stout Somal began to show signs of wishing he wasn't there. So I amused myself by telling him stories of heroic deeds of my own, of campaigns and battles, and of tigers and bears, till I had demonstrated that there surely never was so brave or so wonderful a man as myself. All this he retailed in Arabic to the open-eyed boy, till they both fancied that, with such a Baron Munchausen in their company, we might survive after all, and they did not bolt as I feared they might.

"We succeeded, I don't quite know how, and, passing all sentries, I eventually found myself at the tent of the English correspondent of the *Times*, in a very bedraggled and travel-stained gear. His astonishment was great, but he received me courteously, and I was presently introduced to General Baldisera, commanding the brigade, and his staff. They offered me refreshments. I had eaten nothing since daybreak, and not much then; and I could have eaten, I thought, a whole leg of mutton. At all events, I did not leave much of the thin slice of Italian sausage and the poached egg which their hospitality provided. Nothing could exceed their courtesy, and I had a long and most agreeable conversation."

He was not, however, successful, and he offered his services in any capacity to the *Times* correspondent, on condition that he should

morning while bathing I flung my sponge at a rat which had the audacity to sit on the edge of my bath, and killed it. That night almost the entire tops of my boots, and the binding of a book I was reading, were eaten by rats, while my hat and socks were almost destroyed by cockroaches." From Mozambique, where he learnt that the African Lakes Company were preparing an expedition to prosecute war against a body of slave-raiders who had attacked a small British station and ravaged the country, he departed in high hopes for Quilimane. But on the way he heard many disparaging accounts of the Company and hesitated about offering them his services. His subsequent inquiries disproved the disparaging statements he had heard and dispelled his doubts of the *bona-fides* of the war. Captain Lugard was offered the command of the expedition and thus he entered upon the great work in which he earned his distinction and renown as an Empire-builder.

HIS WORK IN EAST AFRICA.

It is no exaggeration to say that magnificent heroism characterised the work done in Nyasaland as well as in Uganda by our future Governor. Having a tough and wiry constitution, a conviction that active exercise is among the best securities against the climatic perils of the tropics, he worked with sound judgment, indomitable pluck and perseverance to establish peace and order in a vast territory where previously nothing but lawlessness and bloodshed had prevailed. In 1893 he was able to write:—"When Uganda of to-day is contrasted with Uganda of eight or ten years ago . . . the progress made is, I think, nothing short of marvellous. Then the régime described by Speke and Chaille Long was practised. Human life was of less account than the life of cattle. It is said that to satisfy some whim of the king's the Katihiro dug a trench and slaughtered men over it till he stood up to his knees in blood. Mr. Ashe writes of the frightful edicts of Mutesa, disobedience to

however, a curious shrinkage from death in an unknown and probably cruel form. I searched every square yard of ground, but the lions had left, scared by some burning grass Steblenski had fired. They were close by, however, for the buck they had killed was almost warm, and one of the men actually saw one of them. I found his footsteps over the ashes of the grass just burnt, and followed them into a similar dense patch of reeds and grass, but again without success." The natives manifested little surprise at these "somewhat eccentric actions"; they merely assumed that he had taken a charm against lions of such potency that he was invulnerable to them, and therefore had nothing to fear!

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

"Anything like 'speechifying' is a duty I dread, and would prefer to shirk."

"A long residence in India has made me conversant with every kind of fever; that most deadly of all forms—'Peshawur fever'—clung to me for a year in Afghanistan and nearly cost me my life. Sudan fever, Burma fever, Denghi fever, ordinary malarial fever, have victimised me at various times and taught me certain common-sense precautions in tropical countries."

A FATAL QUARREL.

ALLEGED MURDER IN A JAPANESE HOTEL.

Between eight and nine o'clock on April 5th a Japanese, who is presumed to be a seaman, went into the "Yamamoto Kwan" at No 55-Connought Road Central. Shortly afterwards three other men entered and apparently made the acquaintance of the first man, for the four sat down at a table to spend a convivial evening. The sudden friendship, however, was not a lasting one. After a meal and several drinks the three men quarrelled with their new acquaintance and knives are said to have been produced. The Japanese

Uganda, the author heard the story of these adventures from a group of Somalis, who had learnt them from his guide, and their astonishment was great when they learnt that he was that "self-willed Englishman."

On arrival at Massowa he again embarked on board the *Pandora* which was still unloading timber, and "putting away my suit of white uniform, my sword and my identity as an English officer, I returned once more to my quarters among the cargo, and my meals in the cook's galley." It had never been his idea to permanently join the Italians. His hope was that he might embark on some useful undertaking in South Africa, if possible in connection with the suppression of the slave-trade. With this object he had written to certain influential people, but as the letters had not arrived by the time he returned to Aden, and as his hopes had failed in regard to the Italian expedition, he found himself once more without plans or resources, while the sovereigns in his belt had dwindled very perceptibly. In this dilemma he thought over various schemes and had nearly embarked on an Arab dhow when the arrival of the British India boat bound for Zanzibar induced him to alter his intention and take a second-class passage ("for European deck-passengers were not allowed") to that place. On board he found Colonel Euan-Smith and his wife, but "between myself, as a second-class passenger, and them there was, of course, but little communication." He, however, sought an interview with the Colonel and told him of his desire to take part in some useful work in Africa. Col. Euan-Smith told him of the projected formation of the East African Association and promised to use his efforts to obtain for him suitable employment in the service. While waiting his call to this service he proposed to devote himself to elephant hunting. From Zanzibar he proceeded to Mozambique in a terrible ship, swarming with rats and cockroaches to such an extent "that they must have added appreciably to the weight of cargo the vile old boat carried . . . One

writhing in torments in slow furnaces for no crime. Speke says the Waganda are a turbulent set of people, who can only be kept in order by the executioner. Now all that is changed." Sir Frederick Lugard's title to prominent rank among the empire builders in Africa admits of no questioning.

AS A RACONTEUR.

Scattered here and there in the first volume one comes across stories of many exciting sporting adventures which the author has had. The chapter on "Life in the Jungle" gives him the opportunity to relate camp-fire stories of adventures in India and Burmah. They are too long to reproduce, but as a sample of his daring we may recount his first little adventure of this description in East Africa.

Shortly after his arrival in Africa he had an experience which earned him among the natives the *sobriquet* of "the man who tries to catch lions alive in his hand." While he was weak from fever and his drastic remedies his travelling companion who had gone ashore to shoot, came upon four lions who were sitting over the carcass of an antelope in very dense high grass. They would not move and growled angrily. His companion deemed it wise to return, but his story fired the enthusiasm of Captain Lugard who, weak as he was, got some of his men to go with him and show him the spot by offering them a reward and assuring them that he did not want them to come a yard further with him than they cared to. Arrived, I left them at a distance where they clambered on an ant hill to see the fun, and I advanced alone into the thick patch of grass (6 to 8 ft. high) where the lions were supposed to be, with my trusty little .450 rifle. I felt it to be a case of *restigia nulla retrorsum!* and had they been there it is, of course, extremely improbable that I should have come out alive. I am deaf in one ear, and was therefore unable to distinguish the direction from which a premonitory sound might come (even supposing I heard it), and eyesight was useless where the dense grass obscured everything. . . . Such foolhardy action ought

the man who was att
is said, as soon as he
into the adjoining Chinese
unconscious, while
decamped. The ma
shop reported the matter
arrival, found the Japanese
bleeding profusely from
knife wounds about the body. An
was speedily procured, and the
removed to hospital, but he expired
No arrests have yet been made
detectives are in pursuit.

AMERICAN BISHOP D
HONGKONG.

The death took place on Apr. 11, at the Government Civil Hospital of Bishop Fitzgerald of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Deceased, who left America in 1887, accompanied by his wife and family, on a tour of the world, and after conferences in India and Burmah, returned on his journey eastward. At Penang contracted smallpox and died on April 11. Doubtless this bereavement affected the health. Shortly after his arrival in Hongkong he was attacked by pleurisy and succumbed on Thursday. The deceased was born in New Jersey, U. S. A., and was elected a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1888. It is singular that the arrival of two other dignitaries of the church, Bishop Spellmeyer (of Shanghai) and Bishop Bashford (Shanghai), in the same steamer, touring round the world but in opposite directions.

The body will be taken to Amoy and interment on board the Pacific Mail steamer *China*.

The *Foonchow Echo* "March 1935" that
deserted babies are still being the
"Baby Tower" in the native city
The Shanghai Municipal Court
to erect a tablet in the Central
er. In memory of Constable Mor

C. U. S. R. A.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES BY THE GOVERNOR.

The closing competitions of this year's meeting in connection with the China United Services Rifle Association took place at King's Park on April 8th. The most interesting event was the affinity competition in which ladies and gentlemen participated. F. the Governor was present and watched the shooting in the later competitions. At the close the company of ladies and gentlemen gathered at the tent where Lieut. Colonel Aitken at the request of Colonel Darling gave a resumé of the proceedings.

Colonel Aitken said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: At the conclusion of this the second annual meeting of the C. U. S. R. A. it may be of interest to make a few remarks on the results. The entries in the British events were not so numerous as last year, but the shooting was as good and the standard as high as last year all round, if not better. In the native events the entries were almost the same as last year. As regards results, the two championships were won with slightly fewer points than last year, i.e., the British with 124 instead of 127, and the native with 120 as against 122 out of a possible 140. The Officers' Cup brought out a keen finish between the winners and the H.K. Volunteers, the winners averaging 92 out of a possible 105. In the Commander-in-chief's Cup H.M.S. Tamar team put up a fine performance in completing the course in 27.3/5 seconds which included running 100 yards they only expended 7 rounds in knocking over the feet five plates twelve feet square. There were four possibles made during the meeting one at 500 by Mr. Jenkins, and two at 800 yards by Lieut. Hayton of the Hongkong Volunteers in the Officers' Cup and by Sergt. Hunt in the Governor's Cup and one by Mrs. Bird today (applause). In the Governor's Cup the winning team made the good score of 21 hits, 50 per cent of their rounds on a small vanishing height representing a head and shoulders, visible for only three seconds at a time. In conclusion the Committee and members beg to thank you, Sir, Sir A. Moore, General Broadwood, Sir P. Chater and Mr. J. R. M. Smith for the handsome prizes they have given, and our thanks are also due to you, Sir, for coming here this afternoon to present them. (applause.)

H. E. then presented the prizes as follows:

BRITISH EVENTS.

Rifle Championship Series—Event No. 1, 200 yards—1, Gunner Coles, H.K.V.C.; 2, Sgt. R. Lapsley, H.K.V.C. Event No. 2, 500 yards—1, A. Jenkins, H.K.V.C.; 2, Supt. P. J. Wodehouse. Event No. 3, 600 yards—1, L. Corp Bone 25th Coy, R.E.; 2, Sgt Lapsley, H.K.V.C. Event No. 4, 800 yards—1, Sgt Hill R.M.L.I.; 2, A. B. Young; 3, M.S. King Alfred. Event No. 5, aggregate—Lieut Legky, 119th Infantry; 2, Sgt Lawrence, 25th Coy, R.E.; 3, Gunner Coles, H.K.V.C. Carbine Competition—Event No. 6, 200 yards—Gunner Niven, 83rd Co; R. S. A. 2; Sgt Major Yule. Event No. 7, 500 yards—1, Constable J. Spencer; 2, Sgt Major Yule A. O. C. Event No. 8, 600 yards—1, Sgt Grant, H. K. Police; 2, Sgt Major Yule. Event No. 9, aggregate—1, Sgt Major Yule; 2, Sgt Grant, H.K. Police.

Nursery Competition—Event No. 10, 200 and 500 yards—1, Gunner Coles, H.K. V.C.; 2, Ord. Seaman Hilleman, H.M.S. King Alfred.

Affinity Competition—Event No. 11, ladies 75 yards, gentlemen 200 yards—Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Clothier (tie).

Team Competitions officers team competition. —Event No. 12 200, 500 and 800 yards—1, 119th Infantry. Event No. 13—not finished. Event No. 14 Commander in chief's Cup—Won by marines of H.M.S. Tamar.

Revolver Competition—Event No. 15, 25 yards—1, Lt. Hope R.G.A. 2, Captain D'Orley. Special Services—Event No. 16, The Governor's Cup—1, 3rd Middlesex Regiment; 2, H.K.V.C.

NATIVE EVENTS.

Rifle Championship Series—Event No. 17, 200 yards—Jemadar Muhammad Khan, 129th

Baluchis; 2, Azad Gut, 129th Bal. Event No. 18, 500 yards—10 and 2 divided—Jemadar Mahomed Khan and Jaddeo Singh. Event No. 19, 600 yards—1, Larghun Shah, 129th Bal.; 2, Gangnak Bhagnak. Event No. 20, 800 yards—1, Furbi Singh 119th Inf., Amed Ali, 129th Bal. Event 21, aggregate—1, Jemadar Mahomed Khan; 2.

Native Carbine Competition—Event 22, 200 yards—1, Fettah Singh H. K. Police; 2, Chragh Din, H. K. Police. Event 23, 500 yards—1, Ganda Singh; 2, Jemadar Gulal Khan. Event 24, aggregate—1, Jemadar Khan; 2, Ganda Singh.

Nursery Competition—Event 25, 200 and 500 yards—1, Rupa Rawut, 119th Bal; 2, Harbat Khan, 125th Bal.

His Excellency afterwards addressed the company. He said—It is hardly necessary for me at this late hour of the day to say that I take a great interest in rifle shooting, looking on it not only as a very excellent pastime but also as a very valuable military exercise. It was therefore with the greatest satisfaction that I watched the inauguration of the China United Services Rifle Association by Major General Hatton and saw that he made provision that its meetings should be open to all those who would be called upon for the defence of the colony, soldiers, sailors, Volunteers and members of the Volunteer Reserve Association. At this meeting I have only been able to watch two of the competitions. The first was for my own cup in which the Middlesex made a fine score, and the Hongkong Volunteers were some little way behind, though I was glad to see that at any rate they were second, I felt a little less satisfaction in witnessing the competition this afternoon. I heard one lady say that the ladies fired a great deal better than the men. Standing in front of the armed womanhood of the colony and seeing the deadly precision of their aim, I thought with horror of what would happen to our Legislative Council supposing the spirit of the suffragettes invaded this colony (Laughter). However the fear was not a real or a serious one, and I have a request to make to the Association which I hope they will comply with—that is that though I may no longer be a patron of the Association I may be as my predecessor, Sir Henry Blake was, elected a life-member (applause).

Colonel Darling said they would elect His Excellency a life-member on the spot.

With three cheers for the Governor the proceeding terminated.

PIRATES CAPTURED IN HONGKONG.

Piracy is not so romantic as in the olden days. Whether it be that the pirates suffer from the degeneration which is said to have overtaken so many of the human race or not, at any rate there is no gainsaying the fact that they are not now the picturesque figures that they once were. Indeed, they are usually most uninteresting men and were it not that their manner of living does not commend itself to the community they would attract little notice. More unlikely looking pirates could not be seen perhaps than the ten dirty unkempt Chinamen who after huddling in the dock at the Magistracy stood up on April 10th to face Mr. Hazeland when they were stated to be men concerned in the piracy of two junks up the West River rather more than a week ago.

It appeared that on that occasion the two fishing junks were attacked by the robbers who put the crew in subjection and sailed down the river. After about seven days they put the crew ashore near Macao, from which place the men ultimately made their way to Hongkong and reported to the police what had happened to them. They added that they were certain the pirates were in Hongkong and sure enough search led to the two junks being found at Samshuipo. The ten men on board were arrested and after appearing before his Worship were remanded. It is believed that the Chinese Government will apply for their extradition.

Probably emboldened by success which attends their raids later than by Kwangtung Province, they had it necessary to let Hongkong harbor, and it off at the end likely that

had the band which entered the port on Monday not been captured promptly, some deed of violence would have resulted in our immediate neighbourhood. On the day in question the water police were informed by two native seamen of the capture of two junks—each having a "tonnage" of 600 piculs and carrying a crew of ten men—on the West River. The junks are valued at \$1,000 apiece, while the clothing and jewellery aboard at the time is stated to be worth \$500. The pirates are alleged to have boarded the junks from sampans, covered the crew with rifles, and then put them in the hold where they were detained for seven days and afterwards landed. Then the rascals brought the vessels on to Hongkong, appearing in the harbour as peaceful traders. They ignored the fact, however, that a seaman from each of the captured junks had escaped during the affray on the West River. These men, it appears, came to Hongkong and reported the occurrence, therefore the Police were on the lookout. That skilled officer, Detective Sergeant Willden, was among the number on the watch for the pirates, and "from information received" he was successful in apprehending them at Samshuipo. There he captured ten men, all said to be West River out-throats, and found that they had taken out licenses for both junks. The men are at present charged with "bringing stolen property into the Colony."

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the annual general meeting of this Society next Wednesday, the following Report will be presented:—The Committee beg to present their Report on the work of the Society for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

The proposal to publish gardening notes was found to be beset by numerous difficulties and was eventually dropped; as a substitute, a small book on "Gardening for Hongkong" was brought out by Mr. Tutoher at the request of the Society. The cost of printing the first 250 copies was defrayed by the Society, Mr. Tutoher paying for any further copies and taking the proceeds of the sale. The Committee can recommend the book to anyone interested in gardening.

The annual show was held in the Botanic Gardens on 26th and 27th February and produced a fine exhibit of flowers and vegetables, there were 651 entries and it was found necessary to considerably increase the matched accommodation beyond that of the previous year. The details of the Show were settled by a Sub-committee consisting of Messrs J. Barton, L. Gibbs and F. Howell, who with the help of Mr. Chea Leep Chee supervised the staging of exhibit on arrival; this involves a considerable amount of work and the Committee would ask exhibitors at a future show to lighten it by seeing that their exhibits are properly labelled with the Class No. and Group, in which they are to be exhibited, before they are sent to the Show grounds.

The judging was done by Messrs. D. W. Craddock and W. J. Tutoher, and the judging of the gardens by Messrs. J. Barton, S. T. Dunn, L. Gibbs and H. H. Gompertz.

The attendance of the public at the show was disappointing. The weather was fine and it was confidently hoped that a larger "gate" would be obtained than last year; this anticipation was not however realized. On the first day 224 tickets were sold, and on the second day 137 during the 50 cents time and 693 during the 20 cents time, the total takings being \$431.40 against \$676.00 last year.

The accounts show that capital had to be drawn upon, to the extent of about \$400 to meet the expenses of the show. It is thought that some economy might be effected in printing and in the amount given in prizes and that then with a little more appreciation shown by the general public the show might be made to pay its way.

The best thanks of the Society are due to those who came forward with subscriptions to the prize fund and also to the donors of special prizes.

It is proposed to hold a chrysanthemum show in the autumn, and a flower and vegetable show in the early spring of 1908. Schedules are in

course of preparation and will shortly be issued to members.

Sir Francis Piggott resigned the Presidency in November and Mr. J. Barton was elected in his place.

Mr. F. Howell took over the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer during the absence in the summer of Mr. Gibbs.

The Committee with the exception of Messrs. A. E. Griffin and E. Osborne offer themselves for re-election.

A FATAL COLLISION.

INQUIRY AT THE MAGISTRACY

An inquiry was on April 10th conducted by Mr. F. A. Hazeland, (sitting as Coroner) assisted by Lieut. Beckwith R.N., Assistant Harbour Master, into the circumstances touching the death of three children who lost their lives as the result of a collision between the steamer *Sui An* and several sampans on March 28th. Captain Clarke watched the proceedings on behalf of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company. The jury was composed of Messrs. J. Clelland, A. Shaw, and G. J. B. Saver.

Dr. Heanley, medical officer in charge of the mortuary, spoke to examining on April 4th, the body of Wong Tin Fuk, a six years' old child, and stated that death might have been due to drowning. Two other children were examined by him on subsequent days. These also appeared to have been drowned.

Captain Grainger, master of the s.s. *Sui An*, said he had had three years' experience in the river trade. Referring to the incident of the morning of March 28th, he stated that he was taking the ship from the wharf and when as, he thought, he had got out a safe distance, he started to let her stern swing to the west. When almost in position for going away, the mate who was aft, called out to stop the engines which he did. Immediately the strong wind and tide carried the steamer down to the stone jetty (Battery Wharf). He heard there had been a collision with a sampan and he hauled up the *Sui An* with his ropes until he heard that every body was safe. Then he went on to Macao. He never noticed any sampan or heard that one had been smashed before the collision to which he referred. The reason why he did not back out further was because of the *Haichang* at the wharf.

In reply to Lieut. Beckwith, witness stated that he took the steamer out stern first to the end of the wharf with the intention of letting her swing round.

Walter Rennell, chief officer of the *Sui An*, stated that on the morning in question he was standing on the aft deck as the *Sui An* was backing out from the Douglas Wharf. When the engines were stopped the wind and tide carried the ship's stern to the west toward Bank Wharf. As she was swinging round witness noticed a sampan coming from the inside end of Douglas Wharf towards the stern of the ship. The sampan tried to pass between the ship's stern and the wharf. Seeing there was a danger of the sampan being crushed he blew the whistle for the Captain to stop the engine. There was a collision and a number of people were thrown into the water. He had heard since that there had been another collision but he never saw that sampan. It must have been a small sampan if it was hidden under their counter. He did not regard it as possible. The collision may have occurred while he ran up to the captain to tell him of the danger to the other sampan. The wind was blowing fresh and he was afraid the captain might not have heard the whistle.

His Worship said he was advised by his Nautical Assessor that it was possible for a sampan to be hidden under the counter.

A native seaman spoke to seeing two sampans pass between the *Sui An* and the wharf and saw them smashed. Asked why he did not say so to Sergt. Watt he replied that he was not questioned about that.

Sergt. Watt said that he did ask the witness if he saw more than one collision and he answered that he had not.

Sanitary Inspector Frith spoke to hearing the *Sui An* blow three blasts and start going astern. At the same time she had a hawser

from the port bow to the wharf. Her stern swung round to the west as she was going astern, and the hawser was then shifted to another bollard further along. While doing so the ship's stern swung towards Pottinger Street Wharf. Witness did not see any sampan smashed, but he saw a woman hanging on the *Sui An* and she shouted to her not to let go.

His Worship said the Nautical Assessor had advised him that the manoeuvre of the captain was right and proper.

Sanitary Inspector Gidley stated that, attracted by the cries of the people, he ran to the wharf and saw the propeller of the *Sui An* crashing against two sampans, which were under the stern. The people were thrown into the water. Had the sampans not been there the *Sui An* would have crashed into the wharf.

After hearing other evidence the jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

PROPOSED STATUE TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 8th April.

SIR,—I think that the proposed illuminated address to be presented to H. E. the Governor on the eve of his departure from the colony is hardly sufficient to express the sentiment of esteem and respect in which he is held by the entire Community here. It would only be a small return for all that he has done for the improvement of the colony, particularly the impetus he has given to the construction of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, if a statue were erected in his honour in some public place where our rising generation will be reminded of the keen interest he took in all matters connected with the welfare of our little island. I am sure if a subscription of say 50 cents be called from every member of every section of the community enough funds will be raised for this purpose.

Enclosing my card.—Yours faithfully,
VOX POPULI.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

AN ABLE OFFICIAL.

Hongkong, 8th April 1907.

SIR,—In the person of the late Mr. J. M. A. Silva the Colony has lost not only one of its oldest residents but a man of rare gifts and many accomplishments. Some information as regards his life and work would interest a great many readers of your widely read paper. For this reason I am writing this as a supplement to the paragraph which appeared in your issue of this morning, touching upon his demise.

The late Mr. João Maria Silva received his education at Calcutta where he distinguished himself creditably in his studies especially in Chemistry, a branch of study to which the deceased showed a great inclination from childhood. Indeed, although a man of many hobbies, he did not neglect his favourite pursuit until only some years ago when failing health compelled him to abandon it.

Previous to his appointment as a clerk in the Colonial Treasury, Mr. Silva was connected with the firm of Messrs. W. W. Dale & Co., in Canton and the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong. He was first clerk in the Audit Office and was at one time also first clerk in the Registrar General's. Simultaneous with the post he held in the Audit Office, he was in 1873 appointed Electrician and Inspector of the Government Telegraphs. So well was Mr. Silva versed in everything appertaining to his office that he earned the sobriquet of the "Walking Dictionary" bestowed upon him by a former Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. W. M. Deane.

In 1893, after a term of 37 years of service, he was pensioned by the Government. There is no doubt that he was one of the ablest of Government officials, putting off age when his ability in any task was later than his youth. To turn it off at the end of his life is a noteworthy achievement.

superceding the old Dignerrrotype process. Mr. Silva devoted himself to the experiment and was the first in Hongkong that produced photographs by the new process.

In 1867, by the appearance of a certain Professor Bushell in Hongkong, Mr. Silva's attention was directed to the study of Animal Magnetism and so diligent were his researches in this direction that he succeeded in several tests he made here and in Macao.

When the telephone was given to the world in 1877, Mr. Silva at once devoted himself to the new discovery and constructed unaided, the first telephone in China. He was invited by the then, Governor to make an exhibition at Government House in the presence of the Admiral and all the Government officials. In the following year, he perfected his work and invited many friends, as well as representatives of the press, to his residence where he made a second exhibition of his telephone. In the "Daily Press" and the "China Mail" of the 16th February 1878 will be found an account of this.

It was in 1899 that Marconi's Wireless Telegraphy created a great sensation throughout the world and Mr. Silva was again aroused and interested in this great discovery of the age. Like everything that he set himself to do, his indefatigable efforts and studies were crowned with success and he was, therefore, able to give at the Club Lusitano a lecture as well as a practical demonstration of wireless telegraphy with instruments that were made and fixed by himself.

Apart from his pursuit of Chemistry, his greatest hobby was the collection of precious stones and coins. His collection of old Chinese coins is, perhaps, the best in Hongkong.

He was a member of the Electrical Engineers, Institute of London and also of the Sociedade Geographica de Lisboa. From the King of Portugal he received the order of the Chevalier de Christ. His book published in 1904, a work entitled "Repositorio de Noções de Botanica Applicada," is an interesting and instructive production. One cannot read it without being struck by the pains which its author must have taken in collecting the necessary facts and the great store of knowledge he possessed in order to produce a work of the kind.

Socially, the late Mr. J. M. A. Silva was a great conversationalist. He could talk on any subject and could hold his hearers' attention a whole evening—he seemed to know something of everything. He was a member of the Club Lusitano since the Club first started in 1866, being himself an original shareholder and having served several times in the Committee. Indeed the Community to which he belonged as well as the Colony has lost in the late Mr. J. M. A. Silva one whose place it is impossible to fill.—Yours truly,

S. E. A.

E.G. "NATHAN JUNCTION."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Recently a correspondent in the *Daily Press* suggested that in appreciation of H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan's work in the Colony, a statue should be erected by public subscription, but a more appropriate idea, it seems to me, would be to perpetuate his name in the nomenclature of the stations in the British section of the Kowloon-Canton Railway.—Yours truly,

OLD RESIDENT.

TAXING SHANGHAI BEEF.

A Chinese company, countenanced by the government, has drawn a cordon round Shanghai and is imposing a like tax of \$1.60 per head on all cattle imported for "beef for foreigners' eating." Cattle not so paid for are being seized and confiscated. A previous company of the kind was defeated, and the Municipal Council is now in communication with the Consular Body regarding this "persistent attempt to exact like in a manner calculated to fall directly upon the foreign community of Shanghai."

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG ICE CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the office of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co., on the 6th April. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided and there were also present Messrs. R. G. Munro (secretary), C. H. Ross, A. Rodger, J. Barton, C. W. May, I. S. Forrest, B. Sutherland, L. M. Leefe, Ho Fook and Lo Cheung-shui.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting, and the resolutions it was proposed to confirm.

Mr. RODGER proposed that special resolution No. 1 concerning changes in the Company's Articles of Association, as passed by the meeting, held on March 21st, be confirmed.

Mr. HO FOOK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. LEEFE proposed that the special resolution No. 2 approved at the meeting held on March 21st, and dealing with changes referred to in special resolution No. 1 which will take effect from and including May 1st, be confirmed.

The motion was seconded by Mr. FORREST and carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING,
WEAVING AND DYING
CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the office of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., on the 6th April. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. A. G. Wood (consulting committee), P. S. Jameson (secretary), C. H. Ross, J. Miller, F. S. Forrest, H. Gittins, R. S. Percy, J. Shaw, Lo Cheung-shui and Ho Yee-shang.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting and the resolutions which it was proposed to adopt.

Mr. FORREST moved that the first resolution, dealing with changes in the Company's Articles of Association as read in the notice convening the meeting, be adopted.

Mr. LO CHEUNG-SHUI seconded and shareholders agreed.

Mr. MILLER proposed that the changes in the Company's Articles just approved come into force and take effect from and including May 1st.

Mr. GITTINS seconded the proposition, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I am obliged to you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION
COMPANY, LD.

On the 11th April an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Limited, was held at the Company's office, Victoria Buildings. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, was in the chair, others present being Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. A. J. Raymond (directors), M. S. Northcote (secretary), C. H. Ross, F. M. Graca, J. Orange, H. Percy Smith, A. Shelton Hooper, C. P. Chater, A. Haupt, Ho Kom-tong, Ho Tung, Ho Fook and Lo Cheung-shui.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting and the resolution to be confirmed.

The resolution to altering the Articles of Association of the Company, as read, was confirmed on the motion of Mr. SMITH, seconded by Mr. ORANGE.

Mr. LO CHEUNG-SHUI moved that the resolution making changes in the Company's articles should come into force and take effect from and including May 2nd.

Mr. HO FOOK seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I am much obliged to you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Company's office, Victoria Buildings, on the 11th April. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided and there were also present: Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. A. J. Raymond, H. P. White, A. Haupt (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), H. Percy Smith, W. A. Cruickshank, F. Ellis, F. M. Graca, J. Orange, Ho Tung, Ho Kom-tong, Lo Cheung-shui and Ho Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting and the resolutions it was desired to confirm.

Mr. SMITH proposed the adoption of the first resolution as read by the Secretary.

Mr. ELLIS seconded and shareholders agreed.

It was proposed by Mr. HO FOOK seconded by Mr. HO KOM-TONG and agreed that the resolution making changes in the Company's articles of association as read, should come into force and take effect from and including May 1st.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very much obliged, gentlemen, for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON
WHARF AND GODOWN CO.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd. was called for on April 5th to confirm resolutions passed at a previous meeting. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided. There were also present Sir Paul Chater, the Hon. Mr. F. Osborne (secretary), Messrs. A. G. Wood, A. J. Raymond, C. R. Lenzmann, E. Goetz, G. H. Medhurst, (directors) T. F. Hough, Ho Fook, H. P. Smith, J. Orange, W. A. Cruickshank, and E. J. Hughes.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN moved the first resolution concerning the alterations in the Articles Association.

Mr. ORANGE seconded, and the resolution was approved.

The second resolution as to when the changes should come into force was also carried on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ORANGE.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF
CANTON, LD.

The thirty-fourth ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Society's offices on April 13th. Mr. A. G. Wood presided, others present being Messrs. E. Goetz, G. H. Medhurst, A. Forbes and G. Balloch (directors), Mr. W. J. Saunders (secretary), Messrs. F. P. Hett, H. Humphreys, J. J. Loria, D. R. Law, S. G. Newall, A. J. Raymond, R. C. Lane, F. W. Hornby, and D. B. Murray.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, Since the report was issued we have invited Mr. Goetz, of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. to join the Board, and he has accepted the appointment. I may mention also that our old friend Mr. Sibbs has gone home for the summer. We have granted him leave of absence, and hope to see him back in November. The report has been in your hands for some weeks and I will therefore, with your permission, take it as read. We are dealing on this occasion with the final profits for the year 1905 and the interim figures for the year 1906. At this time next year we hope to meet with the final profits for the year 1906 and the interim figures for the year 1907 and so on in future. At the annual meeting last April we made no distribution of profits beyond declaring an interim dividend for the year 1905, as we had already dealt with the profits of the year 1904 at the previous annual meeting in October 1905. You will remember the reason for putting off our annual meeting until six months later than before, namely because we found it necessary to let each year run off properly until all the risks had expired instead of closing it off at the end of June in the

succeeding year. I mention this because, for purposes of proper comparison between this report and previous reports, you must go back to the balance sheet of 30th June 1905 and must look upon last year's report as a sort of interim report. Another point which must be borne in mind in comparing the dollar figures is the extraordinary rise in the sterling equivalent of the dollar or rather the corresponding fall in the dollar equivalent of the pound sterling. On the 30th June 1905 the dollar stood at 1s. 10½d., on the 31st December 1905 it stood at 2/4 and on the 31st December 1906 at 2/3.3/16. As you are aware, most of our business is transacted in gold currencies and most of our funds are held in gold, so you must turn our accounts into gold before making comparisons. Another element is our purchase of the shares in the China Traders' Insurance Company which has largely increased our assets as well as our liabilities. Our arrangements with that company have produced another result which perhaps you may not have looked for, namely a considerable reduction in our working account figures, and I would like to draw your special attention to this last point. In order to make full use of our property in the China Traders' Insurance Company, and to free ourselves from the waste of labour and the complication of exchanging reinsurances, and in order to make certain of providing adequately for the interests of the few remaining shareholders of the China Traders, we found it desirable to pool the joint business between the two Companies, and we selected the proportion of two thirds and one third as being very much more convenient than any other, although we knew that the direct business of the China Traders' would not amount to anything like one third of the whole. It makes no real difference what proportion is taken because the Society owns over 95 per cent. of the China Traders' shares and what we lose on our Underwriting Account we make on our Investment. In order to ascertain the real business we are handling, you must add to our figures those of the China Traders' Insurance Company. The net premium of the two Companies for 1906 is 37,222,000 or £591,000. With a whole position I will leave the usual comparison of our present figures with those of last year and confine my further remarks to the present report. We have first to deal with the 1905 Working Account and we are pleased to be able to recommend a final dividend of \$12 per share and an addition of £3,000 to the Sterling Reserve Fund, besides leaving some \$450,000 to be carried forward against outstanding liabilities. This final dividend of \$12 makes, with the interim dividend of \$30 paid last April, \$42 per share for 1905 against \$4 per share for 1904, another step forward, the 13th increase in dividend in thirteen consecutive years. It is only by nursing our resources that we can continue this steady progress and I hope shareholders will be satisfied. As regards the balance carried forward the Board has already utilized part of this by voting the staff a bonus of 15 per cent. of a year's salary in the form of an addition to the provident fund of each member and I hope this will meet with your approval. We next come to 1906 account. The ultimate profit can only be guessed at but as the loss ratio is almost exactly the same as it was for 1905 account at this time last year we may hope for a very satisfactory result, and this in spite of typhoons here and some very heavy losses in the Australian trade. Our London account is particularly good and balances the less favourable outturn in other quarters. This is the more satisfactory because 1906 has had no assistance from outside sources whereas 1904 received a considerable accession of premium from war risks, and 1905 got the full benefit of the alteration of our system of transferring risks, taking all the outstandings from 1904 and passing none on to 1906. We recommend the payment of an interim dividend of \$30 per share for the year 1906, making with the final dividend of \$12 for 1905, \$42 per share to be paid now to shareholders. We also recommend the payment of the usual bonus to contributors and we carry forward the balance. As regards our new issue of Capital and the profit accruing from the revaluation of our investment in the

China Traders' Insurance Company, I hope it is clear to you all how this profit comes about. In payment for each 10 China Traders' shares worth \$900 we have given out one new Union share standing in our books at \$100 paid up and a cash certificate worth \$244, and this leaves us a book profit of \$556 which is the premium we receive on each new Union share issued. We obtained 22,800 China Traders' shares on this basis, issuing 2,280 Union shares. We also bought 113 further China Traders' shares for cash. We placed on the market at the end of the year the remaining 120 Union shares at \$750 per share equal to a premium of \$650 per share. After placing to the same account the dividends paid and received for the year 1905, and charging it with 5 per cent. interest for 1906 on the new Investment, we had left \$1,230,688.14 which we dealt with as shown in the report, transferring \$1,000,000 to the Silver Reserve Fund and \$230,688.14 to the Investment Fluctuation Account. This gives us some margin for reducing the value of the new Investment at any future time if it should be found necessary. Without the assistance of this accretion the Investment Fluctuation Account would have been on the wrong side, owing to the depreciation of Consols and other Investments during the twelve months. I think I have already dealt sufficiently with the balance sheet and accounts but there is one item in the balance sheet which perhaps requires explanation namely the debit of \$529,784 for estimated liability under Cash Certificates. This is the balance of the intrinsic value of the respective shares on the 31st December 1905 after deducting from the value of the China Traders' shares purchased the value of the new Union shares issued in part payment for them. The intrinsic values have been accurately taken out on the basis of settlements to the 31st December 1906 and a duly audited statement has been issued to holders of Cash Certificate, together with a notice from the Society offering to redeem the certificates now instead of waiting for the result of further settlements. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to supply any further information you may wish for.

No question being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and account as presented.

Mr. LAW, in seconding the motion, said:—Gentlemen,—In rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts for 1905 as presented, I take the opportunity of thanking and congratulating our Chairman on his very able, exhaustive and informing speech in further explanation of the Accounts. He has been good enough to enter into such a careful analysis of them that there is little or nothing further to either say or ask. It cannot but be a source of great satisfaction and pride to us all to be interested in such a widely managed and prosperous Co., as the Union Insurance Society of Canton, and I am sure, that I am but feebly voicing your feelings, Gentlemen, when I say that our very sincere thanks are gratefully offered to our Directors, to our gifted and highly esteemed Secretary, Mr. Saunders, to our splendid staff here and elsewhere, and lastly to our Agents scattered all over the world, for the conspicuous ability they have ever exhibited in the management of our affairs. Gentlemen, it is not the privilege of shareholders in many companies to be invited to meet their Directors year after year and to be presented with figures showing ever increasing prosperity. This is, however, our fortunate position, and it is made still more agreeable and satisfactory by the knowledge that, while we have been regularly receiving enhanced dividends, our Reserves have also, at the same time, been slowly but surely mounting up until now we are in the proud position of seeing our financial position second to none in the Marine Insurance world. I congratulate our Directors and the management on the eminently successful result of their policy, and I would urge them to continue in the path they have followed so consistently year after year—that policy, Gentlemen, is summed up in four words: Reserves first, Dividends afterwards. I would further congratulate the Directors and management on the highly successful issue of their negotiations for the absorption of the China Traders' Marine

Insurance Co.—controlled by us both companies will greatly benefit in every way, and I think we may look forward to an era of continued and even increasing prosperity. In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would like to say that I am especially pleased, as I am sure you all are, to notice the Directors' decision to present our Staff with a bonus. They more than deserve our thanks, and I am only sorry that we cannot express our kindly feelings towards them more adequately than by offering this small token of our gratitude and esteem. Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and account for 1906, as presented.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. HUMPHREYS proposed, and Mr. NEWALL seconded the re-election of Messrs. G. H. Medhurst and A. G. Wood to the Board of Directors. Carried.

On the motion of Mr. HUMPHREYS, seconded by Mr. NEWALL, Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-appointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, Gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday morning.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY.

The forty-first ordinary meeting of shareholders of this Company was held at the Company's Office, Queen's Buildings, on the 13th April. There were present Mr. A. G. Wood (Chairman), Messrs. A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond, E. Goetz, C. R. Leuzmann, and F. Ormiston (Directors). Mr. W. J. Saunders (acting Secretary), Messrs. D. W. Murray, H. C. Gray, H. J. M. Carraho, B. M. Cunha, V. E. Remedios, J. A. Carrelho, A. E. S. Alves, E. C. Lane, and D. B. Murray.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, I will, with your permission, take the report as read. The report and accounts are presented to you this year in the same form as those of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited. In view of the close connection between the two companies it has been necessary for us to adopt their system of accounts. The chief alterations so far as we are concerned are, that we have transferred the liabilities to the debit side of the balance sheet and the assets to the credit side that the assets are classified somewhat differently, and that we now show in Sterling our main Sterling assets and liabilities instead of showing only the dollar equivalents. I am sorry the working account for the eight months ending 31st December 1905 has not produced a better result. The dividend of \$3 per share for the eight months is equal to \$4.50 per annum which is the same as in previous years, and the same bonus was paid to contributors as in previous years. After contributing \$11,685 towards the compensation to staff, the account leaves a balance of \$41,312 to be transferred to Underwriting Suspense Account, against \$61,000 transferred to this account last year, so that the result may be said to be almost exactly proportionate to the result of the twelve months ending 30th April 1905. The remainder of the compensation to staff has been met by a transfer of \$150,000 from the Reserve Fund which, we hope, meets your views. The Working Account for 1906 shows a very satisfactory balance. Apart from the interest and Transfer Fees each of the items is precisely one half of the corresponding item in the Working Account of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd. The reason of this is that under our agreement with the Union the joint underwriting business is pooled by the two Companies in the proportion of two thirds and one third. We recommend an interim dividend of \$3 per share and a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors. The remainder of the balance will be carried forward and, judging from the previous results of the Union's Underwriting Account compared with the present figures, there should be enough left at this time next year to pay a final dividend of \$1.50 per share and to replace most of the amount which has been taken from Reserve Fund. For some years to come, shareholders must not expect a higher dividend than \$4.50 per share as the Reserve Fund and Reinsurance Fund require to be added to it.

dividend can be increased. 22,928 of our shares are now held by the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, who also in terms of our agreement with them take charge of the underwriting management. The arrangement under which the China Traders' got one third of the joint business is, we consider, a very beneficial one for the holders of the remaining shares in the Company, whose interests, we think, have been fully provided for. Unless anyone has any questions to ask I will propose that the Report and Account be adopted.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented. Mr. SAUNDERS seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. SAUNDERS proposed the re-election of Messrs. F. Ormiston and C. R. Leuzmann to the Directorate. Mr. LAW seconded, and shareholders agreed.

Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe were reappointed auditors on the motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, seconded by Mr. LAW.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen, I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be sent out on Monday.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited, to confirm resolutions sanctioning a change in the articles of association was held on the 13th April at the office of the Company. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. G. Wood, H. P. White (directors), H. N. Mody, S. Michael, C. H. Rose, R. Miller, F. J. Moses, J. C. Peter, A. P. Soares, E. S. Kadoorie, S. G. Newall, J. S. Perry and J. Barton (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read, Mr. MILLER moved the confirmation of the first resolution sanctioning the alterations in the articles of the association. Mr. NEWALL seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The second resolution as to the date was carried on the motion of Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. MODY.

The CHAIRMAN—I am much obliged for your attendance, gentlemen.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO.

An extraordinary meeting of the China Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., for the purpose of confirming the two resolutions passed at a previous special meeting, was held at the office of the Company on the 13th April. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided and there were also present:—Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. F. Maitland (director), W. A. Cruickshank, G. H. Balloch, A. Rodger, F. Smith, J. T. V. Vernon, A. C. More, T. S. Forrest, Ho Fook, Chao Lap Chee, Lo Cheung Sui, Ho Wing, Ho Tang Fing.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, Mr. BALLOCH moved the first resolution, approving of certain alterations in the articles of association.

Mr. SMYTH seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

The second resolution fixing the date when the articles should come into force was passed on the motion of Mr. VERNON, seconded by Mr. FORREST.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you for your attendance, Gentlemen.

CAMPBELL MOORE AND CO., LD.

The report of the board of Directors to the twenty first ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's office, No. 29, Queen's Road Central, on Monday, reads as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors beg to lay before you the accounts for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1906. They regret that the Credit balance only amounts to \$653,34, which with your approval they propose to carry forward to the current year's account. This small profit is caused by falling off both in sales and for services. The last three months working shows a slight improvement and it is to be

hoped that we will do better for the current year.

DIRECTORS.—Since the last General meeting Mr. J. W. Osborne has resigned his seat on the Board and Mr. F. P. Musso has joined the Board. Mr. Musso's appointment is submitted for the confirmation of shareholders.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O'D. GOURDIN, who offers himself for re-election.

A. F. ARCVLLI, Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1907

BALANCE SHEET.

from 1st January to 31st December, 1906.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
To Stock—			
Value of Stock on hand	17,270.54		
To Accounts Receivable—			
Due from Customers	4,799.01		
To Cash—			
Amount on hand	1,719.78		
To Fixed Deposit—			
With Chartered Bank of I. A. & China	5,500.00		
To Fixtures and Furnitures	359.90		
To Insurance Account—			
Unexpired Premium paid in advance	14.67		
		\$29,663.90	

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
By Capital—			
1,200 shares paid up at \$1 each	12,000.00		
By Accounts Payable—			
Due to Sundry Creditors	1,272.76		
By Chartered Bank—			
In Current Account	6,777.76		
By Reserve Fund	9,000.00		
By Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss	651.38		
		\$29,663.90	

WORKING ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To Charges	2,839.22	
To Wages	10,899.10	
To Reserve Fund—		
As passed at Meeting 31st Mar., 1906	1,000.00	
To Dividend—		
30 per cent. passed at Meeting 31st Mar. 1906	3,600.00	
To Directors' Fees	600.00	
To Fixtures and Furnitures	276.10	
To Auditor's Fees	300.00	
To Rent	4,740.00	
To Insurance	50.50	
To Stationary	200.32	
To Interest	254.54	
To Bad Debts	66.30	
To Balance	653.38	
	\$25,485.36	

	\$	c.
By Balance brought forward from last account	6,573.17	
By Interest	222.99	
By Bad Debts	3.49	
By Sales and Shop Returns	\$24,335.00	
Less Cost of Stock	5,649.54	
	19,685.55	
By Transfer Fees	25	
	\$25,485.36	

RESERVE FUND.

To Balance 31st December, 1906	\$9,000.00
By Balance 31st December, 1905	\$8,000.00
By Added as per resolution passed 31st March, 1906	1,000.00
	\$9,000.00

CHINA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Wednesday, April 17th at 11 o'clock a.m., reads:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts for the year ending 28th February 1907.

The gross profit amounts to \$79,966.66, and the net profit including the amount brought forward from last year, and after payment of interest and other charges amounts to \$46,459.10 which it is proposed be written off as depreciation.

The result is an improvement upon the previous year but our income at Canton was seriously reduced by fires in the months of October and November which burnt out a number of our customers. The high price of coal and the heavy loss in exchange on small coins in which most of our accounts are paid; have also adversely affected our profits.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the Articles of Association Sir Paul Chater, C. M. G., D. J. W. Noble, and Mr. H. P. White retire but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Aitland, the latter having been asked to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Mr. W. H. Potts, on leave. Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.

General Managers.

Statement of Accounts for the year ending 28th February 1907.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Auditors' fees	200.00	
Consulting Committee's fee	1,500.00	
Exchange (Loss on subsidiary coins)	7,743.69	
Interest	18,125.81	
General Charges	7,157.91	
Balance	46,459.10	

Balance from last year	\$81,186.55
Balance of Canton Working Account	1,219.89
Balance of Kowloon Working Account	69,710.81
	10,255.85
	\$81,186.55

BALANCE SHEET.

	\$	c.
Capital 50,000 Shares at \$10.00 each	500,000.00	
Sundry Creditors	319,970.10	
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	46,459.10	
	\$866,429.20	

KOWLOON

Land	33,735.18
Buildings and Machinery	\$140,000.00
Since expended	186.51
	140,813.49

Furniture	385.50
Since expended	19.50
	405.00

Lines	48,630.51
Since expended	5,387.94
	51,018.49

Materials, Stores, Fuel &c. in stock valued at	36,993.90
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CANTON	
Land	22,806.00
Buildings and Machinery	280,000.00
Since expended	87,833.01
	367,833.01

Furniture	402.68
Since expended	580.05
	982.73

Lines	97,774.27
Since expended	29,357.57
	127,131.84

Materials, Stores, Fuel &c. in stock valued at	57,258.73
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Proportion of premium on current Fire policies	121.58
Sundry Debtors	50,437.88
Cash in hand	4,219.35
	\$866,429.20

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The Gross Profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 793,908 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 10,447,288. of which yen 7,436,141 have been deducted for Current Expenses, Interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 3,011,147 for appropriation.

The Directors propose that yen 350,000 be added to the Reserve Fund, and yen 500,000 to the Special Reserve Fund. From the remainder the Directors recommend a Dividend at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 72,000 on the old shares and yen 540,000 on the new shares, making a total of yen 1,260,000.

The Balance, yen 901,147, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		Y.
Capital paid up	21,000,000.00	
Reserve Funds	13,700,000.00	
Reserve for Doubtful Debts	32,412.16	
Reserve for Depreciation of Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, etc.	22,448.70	
Deposits (Current, Fixed, etc.)	122,963,332.88	
Bills Payable, Bills Rediscounted, Acceptances, and other sums due by the Bank	109,526,737.71	
Dividends Unclaimed	5,277.77	
Amount brought forward from last Account	793,908.04	
Net Profit for the past half-year	2,217,392.20	
	Y 277,736,581.32	

ASSETS.		Y.
Cash Account—		
In Hand	18,779,945.73	
At Bankers	11,529,692.69	
	30,309,638.42	

Investments in Public Securities	20,622,612.91
Bills discounted, Loans, Advances, &c.	104,195,645.14

Bills receivable and other sums due to the Bank	121,844,793.37
Bullion and Foreign Money	806,638.60
Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, &c.	1,948,028.48
	Yen 277,736,581.32

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Current Expenses, Interests, &c.	7,436,141.51
To Reserve Fund	350,000.00
To Special Reserve Fund	500,000.00
To Dividend	

yen 6.00 per Share for 120,000 old Shares—yen 720,000.00; and	1,260,000.00
yen 4.00 per Share for 120,000 new Shares—yen 540,000.00	

To Balance carried forward to next Account	9,011,472.24
	Yen 10,447,288.75

By Balance brought forward 30th June, 1906	793,908.04
By Amount of Gross Profits for the half-year ending 31st December, 1906	9,656,380.71
	Yen 10,447,288.75

SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of shareholders of this company was held at the Ewo offices, Shanghai, on March 28th. Mr. H. Keswick (Chairman) said:—The past year has been a most successful one and we have to congratulate ourselves on once more getting a bumper year. We have spent considerable sums of money in extending our godown accommodation; in keeping our godowns in repair; on our wharves; and in the general up-keep of our property. At Hunt's Wharf we have put up three new three-storied godowns; at the Hongkew Wharf we have also put up two three-storied godowns and at the Ningpo Wharf we have completed, during the past year, one two-storied godown and have converted two other old godowns, which were considered good enough in the old days for usual storage, into more modern and up-to-date places of storage. We have had steam cranes put up in order to handle the heavy cargo and machinery which is now coming out from home in increasing quantities by the big liners. On the whole, gentlemen, your property has been well looked after. You will see, if you turn to the account, that although last year we put a lakh to repairs account, we have expended that sum and some Tls. 15,000 more. The extra amount spent was due, to a certain extent, to the Hongkew Wharf staging being found in bad condition. It is a very old wharf as you know and as we opened it up we found its condition was worse than we had anticipated. The repairs were promptly taken in hand and the wharf has now been put all right; the greater part of the cost came from the ordinary Working Account and the balance from Repairs Account. Your property to-day is in a very good condition and when we have spent Tls. 20,000 more it will be in first-class condition from one end to the other. At Tungkadee we have completed the wharfing; it now extends from boundary to boundary and there is now one almost continuous line of wharfing of the very best kind. The water is of sufficient depth for the largest ocean steamers and it is in every way satisfactory. There have been no slips nor trouble of any kind in connection with the wharfing. I might mention that behind the Pootung wharf we have recently purchased some forty-two mow of land, which will give us an oblong block of property that can be developed very fully and which will enable us to have storage accommodation at Pootung that will meet with the increasing demands of this port. The purchase was made at a reasonable rate, viz. Tls. 1,300 per mow. The land is suitable in every way. It completes our other property and enables us to develop it thoroughly. Turning to the accounts, you will see that there is a very considerable increase in the balance on this year's working account over last year. The former amount was Tls. 638,000 odd, while this year it is Tls. 784,364. Of course we have had a very considerable increase in our receipts, and our expenses also have increased largely. It is a well-known fact to all of you, gentlemen, that the price of labour and the price of everything in this port has gone up considerably during the year. In spite

of that we have got quite a marked increase over last year's working. Looking further down the balance sheet, you will see that during the past year Tls. 487,210 has been spent from Reserve Account. That is represented by the purchase of land behind the Pootung Wharf and by these new godowns which we have put up. There is still a further sum of two lakhs to be paid out of this year's revenue before the programme of building which we initiated last year has been completed. In the accounts receivable you will find that at the end of the year there was a balance outstanding of Tls. 262,698. Since the books were closed on December 31st, last we have got in Tls. 18,000 and the balance is perfectly good. That, I think, gentlemen, is all that I need say, but no doubt some things have escaped my attention which you might like to know, so that before I move that the report and accounts be adopted I shall be very glad to answer any question that any of you may wish to ask.

Mr. Barff asked what were the gross receipts for the year?

The Chairman replied that he preferred not to make that statement in public, but the books of the Company were always open to shareholders and any one could examine the books if he so desired. As no further questions were asked, the Chairman proposed, Mr. McLeod seconded, and it was carried: That the Report and Accounts as presented for the year ending December 31st, 1906, be accepted and passed.

Mr. Barff proposed, Mr. Potts seconded, and it was carried unanimously: That Messrs. A. McLeod, E. C. Pearce C. W. Wrightson and the senior representative of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., be re-elected directors for the current year.

It was proposed by Mr. Fleet, seconded by Mr. Williams, and carried: That Messrs. G. R. Wingrove and H. G. Hayter be re-elected auditors for the Company for the present year.

The Chairman—It gives me pleasure to propose that a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share be declared for the year 1906. You will see from the Report that what the directors propose to do with the credit at Profit and Loss Account of Tls. 518,117 is to pay a final dividend on the old shares of Tls. 10 per share thereby absorbing Tls. 320,000 and we wish to place Tls. 100,000 to credit of Repairs Account. I hope will not have to use this latter amount, but it is a proper and right method of dealing with the case. We also propose to transfer Tls. 75,000 to credit of an equalisation of dividends account and to carry forward Tls. 23,117. The reason we wish to credit such a large sum as Tls. 75,000 to the equalisation of dividends account is that we feel very strongly—at any rate the general managers do—that wharfingers' business is absolutely on the crest of the wave. We have had two years of depression in the piece-goods trade, which means that godowns have been full of cargo, and it is when their godowns are full of cargo that wharfingers reap their harvest. Now that is not in the interests of our constituents and I hope the depression will not continue unduly. We have had a good year and have distributed what I hope you will say is a very good dividend and we, therefore, ought to make provision for the future, in order that we may not be at the mercy of share gamblers and in order to continue our business on prosperous lines. When we have a good year we must take advantage of it and prepare for the bad years which will undoubtedly come. Last year your Chairman thought that this year we would not be so successful, but contrary to expectations this has not been so. I think that next year will not be such a good one. We may have more competition and we must be prepared to meet it. While undoubtedly your Board will increase in general prosperity, yet there may come a time when the directors will feel the strain. Rates may be cut, and we must be prepared to cut rates also. However, your property is pretty well situated and especially the Tungkadoo property, which has been doing exceedingly well. The southern portion is favoured ground for coal and the northern portion for steamers, and the water is of sufficient depth to berth large vessels. The property close to the Custom House did not cost very much—but I will not tell you in public how much—and it is well situated. We

shall have competition, without doubt, but we are not afraid to meet it. (Applause.) As long as the wharf business is carried on in a conservative way, I think you will have nothing whatever to fear; therefore I have great pleasure in proposing that a final dividend for 1906 of Tls. 10 per share be paid.

This was seconded by Mr. E. C. Pearce and carried unanimously.

Mr. Young proposed a vote of thanks to the Board of Directors, the General Agents and the staff, who had all done well and given a very handsome account of themselves. There was one thing he would like to propose, and that was that a handsome recognition be given of the good work of the staff, who had done so well for the shareholders. It would only be right to show their appreciation for work done during the year and he had no doubt the result would be equally gratifying in the future. He therefore proposed that a bonus of an amount to be decided by the directors be paid to the staff.

Mr. Darling seconded and the motion was carried without dissent.

The Chairman said the proposal was one the directors would welcome very heartily. They were all of one mind on that point and if none of the shareholders had made such a proposition the directors would have done so.

THE NEW AMOY DOCK CO. LD.

The 15th ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the Office of the General Manager on Saturday the 6th inst. Mr. Fred. B. Marshall presided, other shareholders present being Messrs. W. Kruse (Consulting Committee), E. Thomas, B. Himpel, W. H. Wallace, Robert W. Black (manager) and C. C. de Carvalho, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. The net profits for the year's working ending 31st December 1906 amount to \$9,379.56 to this sum must be added \$1,195.19 the balance brought forward from last account, which totals \$10,574.75, and this sum it is proposed subject to your approval to deal with as follows:—

Write off Amoy Dock \$731.16
Write off Plant and Machinery 787.55
Commission and Fees to Manager 937.96
Fees to General manager and 5 0.00
Consulting Committee - - - - -

to pay a dividend of 50 cents per share absorbing \$5,000 and to carry forward the balance \$2,618.08. Gentlemen, I regret that we have not a more satisfactory showing for the past year's working to place before you, but work other than our regular harbour jobs, was scarce, and the disastrous typhoon that did so much damage to shipping in Hongkong in September last, did not supply us with any work. We were in hopes the Docks in the Colony would have had some overflow that might be diverted our way, and we took the necessary steps to secure any business offering, but without success. Still it is some satisfaction to report that even in a lean year such as we have just experienced, the Dock is able to pay its way and return a small dividend to Shareholders. The business we have had during the past twelve months can be looked upon as regular and likely to be continued from year to year, and probably increased as new Oil Tanks and other works now in process of building are completed, but to make a good year we must have one or two big jobs on steamers. These come in fits and starts, and cannot be relied on, but you will doubtless be pleased to know our Dock is so well equipped with up-to-date machinery, that we are always ready and capable of taking in hand any Docking and Engineering work that may be offered us.

During the past year we have spent some \$4,368.48 on the Dock; most of this was for a new working shed which we found was badly required, more especially in wet weather.

We had an unpleasant experience last year which gave your Manager and Consulting Committee considerable worry and trouble, but I am pleased to say terminated favourably for the Dock. The owners of the steam launch *Wo On* sued the Dock in the British Consular Court for some \$18,000.00 odd for supposed

damage done to their boat and for which they wished to hold us responsible. I need not here say more than that with the assistance of our Hongkong Lawyers we defended the case, and came through without any expense to the Dock. We have now a claim against the owners for some \$5,000.00 odd, but as this has to go through the Chinese Court it takes time and trouble. The British Consul is supporting our demands and we have every reason to expect our claim will eventually be met in full.

I may here mention, Gentlemen, one of our greatest troubles is to collect accounts due us. If we could do so on due dates we should have little or no overdraft with our Bankers, and during the past few years interest has been quite an item in our accounts which we would like to see reduced, but many of our Customers find times hard, and owing to competition, and to keep the business together, we have to allow some little slackness in settling of accounts.

You will notice, Gentlemen, your Consulting Committee and General Manager have again waved a very large percentage of their fees, but I hope the day is not far distant when the Dock will again be having good years, and full fees can be withdrawn by your Consulting committee and General Manager without making an appreciable tax on your profits. As my business will not permit of my being here during the summer months, your Consulting Committee have asked my Firm (Messrs. Tait and Co.) to act as General Managers. This, Gentlemen, will enable cheque book accounts &c. to be kept in one office for the year, instead of as sometimes has been the case, changing more than once during the twelve months. Gentlemen, there are no other points which occur to me to refer to, but any questions you may desire to put bearing upon the statements now before the meeting, I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability.

No question being asked, The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Report and accounts as presented, be adopted and passed.

Mr. THOMAS seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. BLACK then proposed and Mr. HIMPSEL seconded the re-election of Messrs. Gardiner and Kruse as members of the Consulting Committee—Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, Gentlemen. Dividend Warrants will be ready on Monday.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. THOMAS, and seconded by Mr. HIMPSEL terminated the meeting.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

5th April.

A PROFESSIONAL CASE.

The first hearing in the case of Parnell and Paget v. E. J. Berkley took place yesterday at H. B. M.'s Consular Court. Mr. Jackson of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist appeared for the defendant. The plaintiff moved for an injunction to restrain defendant from practising his profession of architect in Canton alleging that a clause of the defendant's contract with the plaintiffs' firm was binding on this subject. The case has not been decided and is referred to Shanghai.

SMUGGLING ARMS.

Taotai Ho Yau petitioned His Excellency Viceroy Chou Fu stating that he had received information that some Chinese merchants at Macao have been clandestinely carrying on traffic in fire arms with the people of the mainland, and requesting His Excellency to give strict orders to the Admiral and the likin stations in Heung Shan to make vigorous search of passengers' luggage. It is reported that the Viceroy has complied with Taotai's Ho request and issued orders to that effect.

CHINESE AND BRITISH SUBSIDIARY COINS.

The following is a translation of a despatch sent by the Viceroy to the Provincial Treasurer:—

"Some time ago I received a despatch from H. B. M. Consul-General stating that the Provincial Mint has been placing too many subsidiary coins on the market, thus causing great injury

to trade and commerce. On receipt of the despatch I instructed you to investigate and report on the matter. Since then I discovered that besides the provincial subsidiary coin the market is also flooded with Hongkong ten-cent and five-cent pieces, and that the latter monies were coined by the mints in London and Bombay. These coins should be prohibited in Canton. I have already discussed this subject with H. B. M. Consul-General personally and he told me that instructions have already been given to the authorities in Bombay to cease coining those subsidiary coins. He further stated that the Hongkong Government have collected in several millions of their subsidiary coins and have ordered them to be melted and that in future they will not import any more subsidiary coins. Last month I deputed Taotai Ho to Hongkong to hold a conference with the British authorities there, and they seem to agree with our opinion on the subject. I enclose herewith a copy of regulations governing the use of subsidiary coins which were drawn up by Yau.

April 9th.

YUET-HAN RAILWAY COMPANY'S MEETING AT WONG SHA: "PROCEEDINGS UNWORTHY OF CIVILIZED PEOPLE."

Over 4,000 shareholders attended the meeting which took place at Wong Sha on the 2nd instant. No shareholder without a ticket was permitted admittance into the shed which was erected for the occasion, and tickets were obtainable on production of share scrip at the Head Office. This precaution was taken because the directors anticipated trouble. Before the meeting commenced the Chap Yee Shu (Messrs. Yeong and Chan's clique) distributed the following express [translation, from which we have omitted some passages that appear too strong—Ed.]

"We beg respectfully to inform you that the present managers of the Company have frequently acted in contravention of the regulations of the Company, and have turned back on the commercial law. For instance, they have expunged and altered Imperial Edicts in order to deceive the shareholders. The President and Vice-President were both informally elected. They have changed and curtailed the rights of shareholders. Thus they have abolished the regulation of public votes. They have used private individuals' names to invest the public funds of the Company. They have invested the monies at too low rates of interest and

They have conspired together to inveigle the shareholders into serious trouble, and even went so far as to falsely accuse them of being bandits. They have used innumerable means to boycott the shareholders. They have disobeyed orders issued by the Boards at Peking and have slighted the officials. In fact they did as they pleased. How can we shareholders stand by and permit them to feed on our capital as if it was fish and meat? Although the Company was established over a year ago it has not been registered.* It really amounts to this that a limited company has now become an unlimited company. We shareholders have resolved to abide strictly by the commercial law No. 19 i.e. we refuse to recognize them as directors and also refuse to recognize the President and Vice-President elected. We further refuse to recognize the annual statement of accounts furnished to us. We have specially circulated this express to inform all the shareholders.

"This express is purposely issued by the shareholders of the Yuet-Han Railway Company for the occasion."

[*It was officially announced some time ago that registration had taken place at Peking.]

Some of the shareholders objected to the circulation of the express and a row immediately started. Mr. Li Hing Wai, one of the directors, who was elected to take the chair at the meeting, gave instructions to the railway guards to permit the expresses to be distributed and not to interfere, but to arrest persons who used violence. Through his presence of mind the opposition party cooled down and the meeting commenced. The statement of accounts of the Company up to the end of the last Chinese year was first read. After that the Chairman proposed the first

resolution, i.e. that the directors of the Company be empowered to use the funds of the Company to purchase shares and bonds of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Company, which was opposed by the majority of the shareholders. The opposition party were in favour of the resolution. The result was a hot argument. All of a sudden a *chok pau* (large cracker bomb) was let off by somebody in the middle of the audience. This set the crowd in confusion as they thought it was the report of a gun and the majority of the crowd immediately started to disperse, but Lau Chu Shek and others of the opposition party rushed to the platform. They snatched the accounts and tore down all the resolutions that were posted up at the back of the platform. The Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates rushed to the telephone and rang up the nearest station for police and gave orders to the police that were there to come and suppress the disturbance. The Chairman, the directors and the railway staff on seeing the dangerous attitude taken by the opposition party, and to avoid free fight and bloodshed, left the shed.

In the afternoon the Chief Superintendent of Police, receiving information that the opposition party intended to make a raid on the Head Office that evening, sent 100 policemen to guard it.

Petitions were sent to the Viceroy by the Chairman and the Chief Superintendent of Police reporting what had happened at the meeting, and His Excellency the Viceroy issued the following proclamation:—

"With reference to the two petitions re the disturbance in the meeting hall, the proceedings were unworthy of civilized people and are calculated to lower the character of the merchants who are managing railway affairs. I have issued instructions that the matter be properly investigated by the authorities and police and that the ringleaders be arrested and severely punished. It is alleged that the Chap Yee Shu clique fired the cracker-bomb to cause confusion and seize the opportunity to cause a general *mélée*. The Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates and the Superintendent of Police were present and I await their report to issue orders for the necessary investigation and to decide whatever measure should be taken for the arrest and punishment of the offenders."

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.

Vic roy Chou Fu has received a despatch from Peking appointing H. E. Wu Ting Fang President of the Chinese section of the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

CHINA BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this Branch was held at Shanghai on April 4th. Bishop Moule, Mr. Morse and Mr. Kingsmill have promised papers. Mr. J. Mehoarini, acting Hon. Librarian, read the following report:—

In autumn last year on account of the Hon. Librarian, Mr. W. Sheldon Ridge's resignation, I took up the acting Librarianship of the Society. During these few months, I could not but confirm the fact that our Library is one of the richest in the East in old and valuable books pertaining to our scientific branches. I am sure if this were more generally known, our Library would be still more consulted than it is at present. With the view of making this more public, the Council have decided to re-catalogue the whole of the contents of the Library, on modern principles, and steps are being taken to have the work done as soon as possible. The preparation for re-cataloguing has been completed, a general overhaul has been made, but it is with regret I have to report that some works are found missing, fortunately not many and not overvaluable. Some nineteen recent works relating to China and its most adjacent countries have been added to the Library last month. Additions will be made, as the Society's financial means will allow, so as to modernise this valuable collection. The Library has been very fairly attended by consulting students, and this is certainly very encouraging for the Society. In exchanges we have gained considerably having now on our hand most valuable publications from the best known Societies all over the world. For the student they form a mine of informa-

tion. The Library has been enriched by about a dozen volumes presented by their modern authors. To them I reiterate the Society's thanks and hope that their example may be emulated by writers, especially Members of the Society.

CHINESE PLACE-NAMES.

A USEFUL COMPILATION.

In the spring of 1906 a joint Commission of the Chinese Imperial Post and the Imperial Telegraphs was formed at Shanghai for the purpose of systematising the romanisation of names of places in China. One essential condition was that the names so settled should be suitable for telegraphing, and this precluded the use of hyphens, aspirates, and diacritic marks. Subject to this restriction, the system followed, has been, in the main, the Nanking syllabary as given in Giles' Dictionary, except for Kwangtung and a portion of Kwangsi, and partly for Fukien. Where in the north the southern *k*, or *ts* has been substituted for the local *ch* (as in Peking, Tientsin, Tainan, etc.), it was considered that a special rule for pronouncing the letters would allow the romanisation of non-English-speaking people to be met as far as possible. The settled forms of names of places long connected with Foreign trade have been left generally unchanged; but the same respect has not been shown to the eccentric spelling of the writers on the Taiping Rebellion or of the railway engineers who have surveyed so much of the country in the past few years.

The romanisation as now settled will not satisfy sinologists; but it is designed to provide a settled form for the use of correspondents writing or telegraphing to places in the interior, with the certainty that, in copying faithfully a postmark or letter-head, their communications will reach the place indicated, and will not be sent elsewhere.

Where other means of distinguishing places have failed, an abbreviation of the name of the province has been suffixed. A list of these abbreviations, as well as of the post offices in the Empire, has just been published by the Inspectorate General of Customs (Statistical Department) at the remarkably cheap price of twenty-five cents. It is a book that should be found useful in many ways in many offices, particularly as a gazetteer of China.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Municipal Council of Kulangsu, Amoy, held at the Board Room, on the 28th March 1907:—Present: Messrs. F. B. Marshall (Chairman), C. A. V. Brown, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. H. Wallace, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

Tenders for the new Municipal Buildings are considered.

A proclamation, received from the Mixed Court Magistrate for the Council's sanction, referring to opium shops is read. It is decided to inform the Mixed Court Magistrate that while the Council fully approve of the subject matter contained in the proclamation, they consider it undesirable to take any action until the Amoy authorities move in the matter. As soon as that is done the Council will authorize the issue of the proclamation and give the Magistrate every support in carrying it out.

Applications for ten fully paid up, and three twenty five dollars paid up Debentures are considered and receive an allotment in full. The whole of the two hundred Debentures authorized to be issued have now been taken up.

The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—Summons:—Debt, 2; non-payment of municipal taxes, 6; preferring a false charge, 1. Summary Arrests:—Kidnapping, 1; contempt of Court, 1; Burglary, 1; attempting to communicate with a prisoner undergoing sentence, 1; committing a nuisance, 1; attempting to escape, 2. (Signed) Fred. B. Marshall, Chairman.

By order, C. BRANLEY MERRILL, (Secretary).

COMMERCIAL.

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon, 5th April, 1907, states:—Our market, after having ruled somewhat easier for a fortnight or so, owing to demand having slackened, has again resumed its firmness and rising tendency, owing to renewed activity for China, Philippines, and Europe. In the latter direction alone some 25,000 tons have been settled this week.

We quote for May/June delivery:—

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round)	\$3.50
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	\$3.38
5 % Cargo steam milled (round) ..	\$3.30
10 % Cargo steam milled (round) ..	\$3.20
20 % Cargo steam milled (round) ..	\$3.20

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, April 15th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$800	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$900	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$980	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$970	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$600	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$700	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$970	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$947½	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

PIECE-GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated, Shanghai, 4th April, 1907, states:—The Newchwang market remains dormant, the situation not being improved by the reported failure of another Piece Goods Hong. The Chinese authorities are experiencing great difficulty in resuming the control of Manchuria, the latest idea being to divide it into three provinces and incorporate them all with Chihli under one Viceroy, which would have the effect of making them less isolated from China Proper than they are at present. The improvement in the direction of Hankow has had a slight setback owing to the dishonesty of the manager of a native firm there, but clearances thence are keeping satisfactory. The high price of rice and terrible distress in the famine districts are adding greatly to the general depression of trade. Manchester and New York are both keeping very strong and do not appear to trouble about the absence of demand for China. The spot quotations for Canton in Liverpool are steadily declining being 5.90d for Mid-American, with 5.55d. for the rest of this month, and 10.79d. for Egyptian, but they have no effect on the prices for goods. Last month's export figures of Plain Cottons for Hongkong and China was 30,000,000 yards, and 1,800 bales of yarn to Shanghai alone. The yarn market is showing much more activity and it is hoped it is the precursor of a revival in the general demand. The great depression in the Far Eastern markets has led to a short time movement in Bombay in order to curtail the supply, but a great reduction will have to take place both in Hongkong and here before it is felt at all. Notwithstanding the decline in exchange holders appear willing to sell at current rates and we suspect a larger volume of business has been done than is reported. The Local Mills are also curtailing their output, though clearances are reported to be better than for some time past. As will have been seen the tendency was distinctly weaker at the Yuen Fong Auction last week, and with very few exceptions a further shrinkage of prices is noticeable again in this morning's sale of cotton goods. Woollens were irregular. Clearances from stock have chiefly been in fancy goods, but English Grey and White makes appear to be receiving more attention than American. Cotton Yarn.—Indian—Tientsin and Szechuen have been fair operators in Nos. 10s. and 12s. and some of the favourite spinnings for the former market show a slight advance, but otherwise there is a weaker tendency in spite of the decline in Rupee rates.

The following is the weekly report of Messrs. Ilbert & Co. dated Shanghai, April 5th:—A further decline during the week of 9/16d in silver and a corresponding drop in exchange, has stifled inquiry for the present, orders from all the dependencies being practically withdrawn until some stable basis of values is in view, and in the meantime business from first hands, also native resales, are at a standstill. The while auction values even show a decline. The market for Bombay Yarns is steady to firm in sympathy with the fall in exchange, but

deliveries have been very small in comparison to stocks that have accumulated, and it is therefore good news to learn that the Bombay Mills in general are endeavouring to agree to go onto short time 4 days a week and no night work, some 25 mills having already decided on doing so. We have to draw attention to a mistake which has crept into the figures of our stocks of American goods owing to the omission during March of the first figure of the quantity, which is given correctly this week as 3,543,436 pieces. At the present rate of delivery this is sufficient to supply the normal consumption of our market, based upon average recent years' off-take prior to the Japan-Russian war, until December, and leave a carry-over of just under 1,000,000 pieces for the commencement of next year's trade. Unfortunately, however, the deliveries during the first quarter of this year cannot be altogether classed as due to consumptive demand, for a considerable proportion has been cleared under pressure, by arrangement between those dealers who can find the funds and their up-country merchants, that the latter pay only a portion of the cost upon clearance of the goods, and the balance when able, the dealers meanwhile making good the amount required to get delivery of the cargo from foreign importers. It follows, of course, in consequence of this that there is a great stringency of money amongst native trading circles which is affecting in its turn all branches of the trade, but in order to get their present unwieldy holdings moving, this arrangement is forced upon the dealers by the credit terms upon which the Northern merchants are able to get delivery of cargo from foreign importers.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 3rd April, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 37.60
Do. Seconds	33.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	72.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each ..	7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	10.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	9.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	9.50
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow ..	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	10.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	13.00
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.30
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tingschow	7.50
Tobacco, Wongkong	11.00
Tumeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.50
Sesamum Seed Oil	10.50
Wood Oil	9.00
Tea Oil	10.00

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular dated Shanghai, 1st April, 1907 has the following:—Gallnuts.—Plum-shaped Gallnuts are exceedingly scarce and we have not heard of any transaction. There is also very little doing in usual Gallnuts, as prices, asked by dealers, are too high. Cowhides.—There is no change to report. Prices are as high as ever and supplies are rather small, which encourages Chinese to cling to the stocks they have. Tobacco.—The market is unchanged. Feathers.—White Goose.—The market is very firm, and as the season is drawing to a close, prices may advance. Duck.—The market remains strong for all descriptions, and prices are unchanged. Cotton.—The demand for this article continues fair and prices are firm. Tallow. A limited business has been done in the meantime. The market is very firm and exceedingly high prices are being paid in the native market to cover short sales. Wood Oil.—The market is unchanged; no business has been reported. Strawbraid.—Supplies remain small, and on the whole prices remain firm. Some business has been done in Loyal White and Tuscan as well as in medium and fine sp'it. Coarse remains neglected. Bugs.—Goatskin.—There is more enquiry, but nearly nothing offering. Wool.—Sheep's.—Prices for combings have advanced. Prices for Fillings remain steady, but stocks are small. Camels.—Remain in good demand at last prices. Antimony.—Prices asked by holders are still high and only a small business has been transacted.

Per P & O steamer *Malta*, sailed on 6th April. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—4 cases curios. For London:—3 cases embroideries, 2 packages old documents, 1 package private effects, 16 cases chinaware, 2 rolls matting, 3 cases feathers, 1 case curios, 21 packages furniture and curios, 1 case books, 1 case fl. sundries. For Marseilles:—3 cases feathers, 2 cases embroideries, 165 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—3 cases silks, 197 bales raw silk.

Per s.s. *Nile*, sailed on 10th April, 1907. For Manchester:—160 bales waste silk. For Hamburg or London:—8 cases human hair. For London:—245 cases merchandise, 500 bales hemp, 4 pkgs. p. effects, 375 cases camphor, 138 cases sundries, 40 bales canes, 1 case curios, 28 pkgs p. effects, 10 cases curios and p. effects, 1 case carpets, 40 bags galangal, 250 cases pre-arves, 25 cases bristles, 1 case copper castings, 3 cases tools, 100 boxes cassia, 29 cases curios and b'woodware, 10 pkgs. curios and b'woodware, 563 rolls matting, 2 cases piece goods, 50 cases soy. For Marseilles:—50 bales waste silk, 8 cases human hair.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th April, 1907.—A comparatively moderate business has been transacted during the week, but at rates still inclining, in most cases, to weakness, and the Market closes generally speaking a selling one.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed during the week at \$887½ and \$890, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate, and with, at the moment, no shares available to satisfy the small demand. London has advanced to £104. Nationals are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market has been quite neglected and closes weak with sellers of Unions at \$845, of North China at Tls. 8½, and of Cantons at \$ 85. Yangtze's with the declaration of a dividend of 20 per cent. have advanced to \$170 with buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong remain unchanged with sellers at \$335, and no business to report. Chinas have declined to \$ 6 with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue unchanged and without business, closing weak at \$29½ sellers. Indo-China have been placed during the week at the reduced rate of \$72½, \$71 and \$70, closing quiet at the last rate. Douglasses have advanced without sales to \$37½ and close with buyers at that. Shell Transport have found buyers at 40/8 and 40/9, closing with buyers at the lower rate. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue neglected and weak with sellers at \$115. Luzons are unchanged.

MINING.—Rauba have been placed at \$7½. Charbonnages are still wanted in a very small way at \$450. Chinese Engineerings have ruled at Tls 13 and 14 but without business, and the market closes rather weaker with sellers at the latter rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong & Whampoa Docks continue distinctly out of favour, and the rate has further fallen to 124 sellers, without any sales at intermediate rates to report. Kowloon Wharves have also declined to \$89 with sellers, and reported private sales at lower rates. Shanghai Docks have experienced a further fall, the rate having declined to 85 sellers in Shanghai, after small local sales at 87 & 86. New Amoy Dock have declared a dividend of 50 cents, and close at 11½ nominal ex dividend Hongkong Wharves advanced in Shanghai during the week to 222, but close easier with sellers at the Northern port at 217.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, with a few shares pressing on the market, have been placed as low as \$105, after fair sales at \$106½ and 106. At time of closing sellers at 106½ apparently rule the market, but there are no great number of shares available, and any ordinary demand would at once send the rate back to 107. West Point continues on offer at \$50, and it is possible that a lower rate would be accepted for shares. Hongkong Hotels have changed hands at \$117 and 118, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Humphreys have found buyers at \$11.15 and 11.10, closing steady at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—The latest quotations from Shanghai are given at foot; we have no local sales or changes to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at \$9. Cements in small lots at 19, Electrics at 16, closing with buyers, Ropes at 20, and Watsons at 12.10 and 12, the last closing with buyers at the higher rate. Laundries are enquired for at 6, and Peak Tramways at 10 1/11, cum any further dividend due on the old shares. Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$890, sales & buy. London, £104
National B. of China		
A. Shares	28	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 69
Hongkong	\$10	\$12
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 62 1/2
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 95
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 380
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$89, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$124, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$11 1/2, x.d.
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
S'hai & H. Wharf..	Tls. 100	Tls. 217
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$18, sellers
G. Island Cement ..	\$10	\$19, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric ..	\$10	\$16, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$118
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$20, sales & buy.
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$975, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$285, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$80
China Traders	\$25	\$100
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 80, sellers
Union	\$100	\$845, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$170, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$100, sellers
Humphrey's Estate ..	\$10	\$11, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37 1/2, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
West Point Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 62
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$450, buyers
Raub	18. 10	\$7 1/2
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$104
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Raffineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$115, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila ..	\$25	\$17, sellers
Douglas Steamship ..	\$50	\$37 1/2, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	210	\$70
Shell Transport Co.	21	40 6, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Do. New	\$5	\$19 1/2, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$25
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6 1/2, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$30, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$3 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Foun	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending April 4th, 1907, states:—Owing to the settlements and the Easter holidays, only a very small business has been done, and there is little of importance to record. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There has been a small demand for banks at \$890 ex. 73. Hongkong quotes \$890 sales. The London quotation is £101. 10s. 0d. The T. T. on London to-day is 2s. 9 1/2d. Marine and Fire Insurance.—A single operation is reported in China Fires at \$85. Yangtze Insurance shares are wanted at \$165, and Hongkong quotes Unions at \$845 buyers. Shipping—Indos remained steady at \$57, and business is reported at \$58. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. ordinary shares changed hands at Tls. 52 1/2, and preference shares at Tls. 50 1/2. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves.—Since the payment of the dividend new shares rank equal, and business is reported at Tls. 218 cash and Tls. 220 April. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. This market is steady at Tls. 93. Sugars.—There are buyers of Perak Sugars at Tls. 85, but no business has been reported. Mining.—Kaiping bearer scrip. Business is reported at Tls. 13 3/4. Lands.—Old shares have changed hands at Tls. 98 1/2 and Tls. 99, and new shares at Tls. 61. Industrial.—Cotton Mills have again become quiet, a small business only having been done in Ewos at Tls. 72 March and April. China Flour Mill shares are wanted at Tls. 61. Shanghai Gas Co. Business is reported at Tls. 108. Shanghai Ice Co. S. & R. Co. Business has been done at Tls. 16 and Tls. 17. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co. Shares have changed and are wanted at Tls. 130. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. This market is strong with buyers forward. Business is reported at Tls. 270 cash, Tls. 277 1/2 and Tls. 280 June, and Tls. 282 1/2 September. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz are quoted at \$23 1/2. New Centrals at \$15, and Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 15 1/2 cash and Tls. 16 June. Loans and Debentures.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE

ON LONDON — MONDAY, April 15th.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	266 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	271
ON GERMANY. On demand	216 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	52 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	156 1/2
Bank, on demand	156 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	156 1/2
Bank on demand	156 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	103 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	103 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	11 p.c. pm
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	126 1/2
ON HAIKONG.—On demand	11 p.c. pm
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm
ON BANG OK.—On demand	70 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.40
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$19.70
BAR SILVER, per oz	30 1/2

TONNAGE.

Hongkong, 15th April.—A large volume of business has again been transacted during the period under review. From Saigon to Hongkong, as high as 27 cents was paid, but owing to a drop in the price of rice locally, the rate went down to 21 cents. At the close, there is a little more inquiry, and 23 1/2 cents per picul can now be obtained. From Saigon to Philippines, fixtures at 37 and 36 cents per picul, to Shanghai, 35 cents last, to Tientsin, 45 and 50 cents, to Swatow 26 cents last. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 20 3/4 cents. From North Coast Java to this, 30 cents. Coal freights are weaker. From Moji to this, \$1 35; to Canton, \$2 20, to Swatow, \$1 75, Singapore, \$1 70. From Hongkong to Penang, \$3 00, to Hongkong, \$1 75, to Canton, \$2 25. The following are the settlements:—
Zoroaster—British steamer, 2,384 tons, Kuchinotsu to Singapore, \$1 00 per ton.
Zingara—British steamer, 2,211 tons, Kuchinotsu to Singapore, \$1 70 per ton.

Yoneyama Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,750 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1 40 per ton.
Shakana Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,064 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1 35 per ton.
Nishin Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,957 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1 35 per ton.
Lydia—German steamer, 1,772 tons, Moji to Canton, \$2 20 per ton.
Tungus—Norwegian steamer, 1,039 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$2 50 per ton.
Karlson—German steamer, 1,487 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$2 60 per ton.
Sophie Rickmers—German steamer, 2,262 tons, Hongkong to Penang (3,500 T.), \$3 00 per ton.
Nikkai Maru—Japanese steamer, 930 tons, 7 trips Hongkong to Canton, \$2 25 per ton.
Seichuen—British steamer, 1,113 tons, Hoilo to Ningpo and Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Hoilo to Ningpo and Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 37 cents per picul.
Varg—Norwegian steamer, 784 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 37 cents per picul.
Kume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 36 cents per picul.
Noed—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 45 cents per picul.
Fre—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Swatow, 32 cents per picul.
Johanne—German steamer, 952 tons, Saigon to Swatow, 31 cents per picul.
An Indo China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Swatow, 28 cents per picul.
An Indo China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Swatow, 25 cents per picul.
Tik Sang—British steamer, 1,236 tons, Saigon to Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
Lydia—German steamer, 1,772 tons, Saigon to Ningpo and Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
Kassu—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Saigon to Tientsin, 30 cents per picul.
Eiger—Norwegian steamer, 874 tons, Saigon to Tientsin, 45 cents per picul.
Dott—Norwegian steamer, 629 tons, Saigon to Tientsin, 45 cents per picul.
Canton—German steamer, 1,110 tons, three trips Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
Nishin Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,957 tons, three trips Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Kenkon Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,167 tons, three trips Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Kyoto Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,640 tons, 2/3 trips Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Shakana Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,064 tons, three trips Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.
Changho—British steamer, 1,263 tons, Saigon to Hongkong and or Canton, 27/22 cents per picul.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong and or Canton, 26 28 cents per picul.
Yokohama—British steamer, 1,124 tons, Saigon to Hongkong and or Canton, 26 28 cents per picul.
Fridtjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to Hongkong and or Canton, 25 1/28 cents per picul.
Daphne—German steamer, 1,225 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.
Suez—Russian steamer, 1,305 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Kashima Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,746 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Standard—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents, Swatow 26 cents per picul.
Laudrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.
An Indo China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Bangkok to Hongkong, 28 3/4 cents per picul.
Procto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,500 per month.
Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,700 per month.
Loyal—German steamer, 1,217 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$6,000 per month.
Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$5,750 per month.

FREIGHT.
From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles, or Havre 40/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) (General Cargo) 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez)—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland)—per carload, Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross, less than carload, Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to \$1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April.—

ARRIVALS.

- 4, Quarta, German str., from Saigon.
- 5, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 5, Fooksang, British str., from Jangkar.
- 5, Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 5, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
- 5, Hongbee, British str., from Singapore.
- 5, Hupeh, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Nichibai Maru, Japanese str., from Dalny.
- 5, Suisang, British str., from Moji.
- 5, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 5, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 5, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Waishing, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Chiyeun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 6, Kent, British cruiser, from Singapore.
- 6, Kwongsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Mansang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Canton Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 7, Haiching, British str., from Foochow.
- 7, Kiyei Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 7, Mongolia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Ufada, British str., from Rangoon.
- 7, Sandakan, German str., from Kobe.
- 8, Calchas, British str., from Amoy.
- 8, Carlton, British str., from Barry Docks.
- 8, Castai, Norwegian str., from Luigkat.
- 8, Daphne, German str., from Saigon.
- 8, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
- 8, E. of India, British str., from Vancouver.
- 8, F. Sontua, American str., from Manila.
- 8, Kweiyang, British str., from Amoy.
- 8, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 8, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 8, Montrose, British str., from Singapore.
- 8, Nile, British str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Quinta, German str., from Soerabaya.
- 8, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Yangtze, British str., from Liverpool.
- 8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Zieten, German str., from Yokohama.
- 9, Breconshire, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Changsha, British str., from Japan.
- 9, Foxton Hall, British str., from Barry.
- 9, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Hellas, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, Hinsang, British str., from Moji.
- 9, Hopsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 9, Istak, Austrian str., from Bombay.
- 9, Keong Wai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Krumstad, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 9, Mandan Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 9, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
- 9, Suevia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Clara Jensen, German str., from Saigon.
- 10, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
- 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Manila, German str., from Sydney.
- 10, Masan Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 10, Michael Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 10, Shantung, British str., from Saigon.
- 10, Signal, German str., from Rangoon.
- 10, Suma Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 10, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.

April.—

DEPARTURES.

- 5, Arcadia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Benalder, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 5, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 5, Habsburg, German str., for Singapore.
- 5, Hoihow, British str., for Chiokiang.
- 5, Hunan, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Indrani, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Nord, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 5, Pheumpenb, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Rhenania, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Rabi, British str., for Amoy.
- 5, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
- 5, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Devawongse, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Eiger, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 7, Formosa, British str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Idomeneus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 7, Joshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.

- 7, Kumsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Loo Sok, German str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Malta, British str., for Europe.
- 7, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Merionethshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Nichibai Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 7, Pakhoi, British str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 7, Stettin, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Taikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 7, Taisang, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Tydeus, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Kwangtsh, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Calchas, British str., for Singapore.
- 9, Castor, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
- 9, China, American str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Chunsang, British str., for Saigon.
- 9, Falcon, British str., for Kobe.
- 9, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
- 9, Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
- 9, Phranang, German str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Shachsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Bangkok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 10, Chiphing, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 10, Kent, H.M.S. cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
- 10, Kweiyang, British str., for Chafco.
- 10, Montrose, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Nile, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
- 10, Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
- 10, Suevia, German str., for Singapore.
- 10, Wuhu, British str., for Saigon.
- 10, Yangtze, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 10, Zieten, German str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hailan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Sigerall, Mr. and Mrs. Haeslop, Mrs. and Miss Bender, Miss Hancock, Masters Sigerall (3).

Per *Manila*, from Hongkong, from Sydney, Messrs. James Marsden, M. McIlraith, M. Focke, J. Macculloch, V. C. Saywell, G. Kemna and L. Vogeler; from Simpsonhafen, Dr. and Mrs. Damveit, Miss Sommer, Messrs. Prof. Eng. Schroeder, C. F. Merten and Haeske; from Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen, Messrs. R. Oldorp, B. Schmalz, Paul C. Kautner; from Manila, Mr. Pater Eb. Limbrock and boy.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Kung, Mrs. F. Templeton, Mrs. E. Doyle, Mrs. J. Mayor, Mrs. H. Carbone and child, Miss K. Shultz, Miss Lilo Hansen, Father Ricardo Casado, Messrs. Alexander Louis, J. W. Chesebrough, A. M. Sallanby, W. F. Braden, W. M. Finsell, Henry D. Woolf and servant, Roque Ruano, Mauricio Andres and Jose R. Gonzalez.

Per *Mongolia*, from Hongkong, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Laird, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Osgood, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Terwilliger, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Stent and infant, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Lord, Hon. and Mrs. D. Hays, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Carter, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. McCracken, Paymaster W. B. Izard, Prof. and Mrs. W. P. Laird, Mrs. T. W. Jenks, Mrs. D. C. Worcester, Mrs. F. Prentice, Misses F. E. Biter, E. Hemmip, A. B. Jenks, M. H. Laird, Terwilliger, A. Warder, A. E. Worcester, E. Raymer, D. Simpson, M. V. Lord, L. Larmelle, M. P. Green, Dr. D. Enbank, Col. Ed. H. Haskell, Rev. J. H. Haslaw, Rev. D. P. Seas, Rev. J. W. Lyell, Rev. F. A. Smith, Hon. Dean C. Worcester, Master T. L. Worcester, Messrs. C. J. Cougell, T. Colley, C. A. Davenport, W. W. Derham, D. Dolliver, C. E. Hemmip, W. H. Shotwell, S. H. Shotwell, W. H. Waite, A. Wright and W. Y. Quisenberry; from Honolulu, Mrs. S. Dunick and Miss E. Latham; from Kobe, Mrs. C. Bosman and infant, Mr. Hy. Berkhardt, Mr. R. G. Craighead and Mr. H. T. Bosman and servant; from Shanghai, Mrs. G. Smith, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. L. A. Musso child and amah, Mrs. K. Lin, Miss K. McGregor, Miss B. Steele, Miss M. Liu, Mr. R. McGregor, Mr. W. Sutherland, Mr. A. D. Warwick, Mr. F. H. Musso, Mr. H. E. Krol, Mr. C. E. Watkins and S. N. Lin and servant.

Per *Tosa*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Salvati, Capt. and Mrs. Hedekin and child, Lieut. and Mrs. Boyd, Messrs. Ranft, O. Brien, van Nostrand, Lincoln, Curtis, Douglass, Kucasa, Kotel, Nightingale, Richards, Dixon, Hugota, Raminolas, Walker, Comes, Low, Williams.

DEPARTED.

Per *Nile*, from Hongkong, for London, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. D. Jaffe and infant, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. E. Edwards, infant and amah, Mr. and Mrs. David Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Hart and infant, Inspector and Mrs. Langley and 3 children, Mrs. W. Gov, child and infant, Mrs. Houghton and 2 infants, Mrs. F. J. Dudley, 2 children and nurse, Mrs. R. Whyte and infant, Mrs. H. Humphreys, Mrs. and 2 Masters Hincheson, Master D. B. Wood, Messrs. J. C. Dallas, B. James and T. E. Pearce; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jupp, 2 children and nurse, Mr. and Mrs. G. Murray Bain, Mr. W. D. Jupp.

Per *China*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Bardin, Mr. and Mrs. F. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. F. Crandell, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Barrow, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Schmelkel, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Hastings and infant, Dr. and Mrs. Lorrigo, Capt. and Mrs. F. E. Lacy and daughter, Mrs. Sharp, daughters and infant, Mrs. J. L. McKinney, Mrs. J. M. Fitzgerald, Mrs. L. H. V. Kennon, Mrs. T. A. Young, Mrs. Heimendahl, Mrs. L. M. Southworth and maid, Mrs. Reed, son and infant, Mrs. F. Prentice, Miss E. McKinney, Miss J. Webster, Miss Wright, Miss M. Sumin, Miss Kennedy, Miss Fowler, Miss S. E. Daniels, Miss L. Weinstein, Miss M. Ford, Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Lloyd Thomas, Miss Wright, Capt. J. B. Boardley, Capt. A. R. Harman, Capt. J. F. Paterson, Capt. H. Leube, Rev. Geo. Smith, Rev. H. C. Mabre, Rev. A. B. Fitzgerald, Dr. W. A. Sharp, Major H. W. Dantap, Major S. H. Padley, Lieut. W. M. Lanyon, Lieut. A. Rousot, Master Wells Hastings, Messrs. O. H. M. Pain, F. D. and H. C. Black, J. R. Packard, A. P. Cody, J. M. Fowler, Jr., E. Dwight Atherton, H. Outerson, H. S. Altergal, A. W. Eddy, L. R. Fitzgerald, and J. J. Woodruff, Kelly, R. G. Craigland Chapman, H. C. Gray, F. Prescott, E. B. Sherman, Phil. Sot, T. H. Brees, E. M. Wood, G. T. Rude, R. P. Smith, F. B. Sherrington, H. E. Bidwell, F. A. Hollabough, S. M. H. Long, J. R. Wickwire, P. Hager, A. L. Nugent and Valat, C. N. Usher, E. F. Raymer, T. B. Townsend, C. R. Trowbridge, T. V. Halay, A. W. Miller, M. Sternberger, L. M. Wertenbaker and R. H. Wright.

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